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FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2022

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Congress president Sonia Gandhi tests positive for COVID-19
page 12

Patidar agitation leader Hardik Patel, who had quit Congress, joins BJP
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India's trade deficit widened to record $23.33 billion in May
page 15

Swiatek eases past Kasatkina, enters French Open final
page 16

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NEARBY

Crackdown on faulty number plates

BENGALURU

Vehicle owners who display unauthorised names, emblems, association names of government departments and boards on their registration plates should get ready to pay fines as the Transport Department is preparing to crack down on them.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

'Textbooks should have facts, not ideology'

MYSURU

Kannada writer and Saraswathi Samman awardee S.L. Bhyrappa said that school textbooks 'should contain facts, and they should not be altered to suit a particular ideology'. He said that textbooks cannot be changed to prop up the ideology of any government.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 4

Congress to take out padayatras in all districts

BENGALURU

The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) on Thursday commenced its two-day Nava Sankalpa Shibira. KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar told all leaders to participate in the padayatra to be launched in all districts from August 9 to 15.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 6

METROPLUS ▸ PAGE 17

2 dead in fresh targeted killings in Valley

Bank manager killed as militant opens fire inside a bank in Kulgam; labourer shot dead in Budgam

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Amid continuing targeted killings, a bank manager from Rajasthan and a labourer from Bihar working in a brick kiln were killed in separate incidents in Kashmir on Thursday.

The manager at the Ellaquai Dehati Bank (EDB), Vijay Kumar from Rajasthan's Bhagwan village, was on duty in the morning when a pistol-borne militant barged into the bank and fired three shots at him in the Arreh-Mohanpora branch in Kulgam. The incident was captured by the bank's CCTV cameras.

"Mr. Kumar received grievous injuries and died in hospital," the police said.

On social media, a little-known outfit, the Kashmir Freedom Fighters (KFF), purportedly claimed responsibility for the attack. However, the veracity of the claim was not confirmed by the police. "Mr. Kumar, holding a domicile, was eliminated by our cadre. Anyone involved in the demographic change of Kashmir will meet the same fate," according to the KFF release. Mr. Kumar, who got married six months ago, was living with his wife in the Qazigund area.

In a separate targeted attack in the evening, terrorists fired upon two non-local labourers working in a brick kiln in the Chadoora area of Budgam. The duo was shifted to hospital, where one of them, identified as Dilkhush from Bihar, succumbed, police said. With Thursday attacks, the number of targeted killings has touched nine in Kashmir in the past 22 days. Mr. Kumar's killing was reminiscent of the murder of Rahul Bhat, a Kashmiri Pandit, who was shot dead in his office chair in Budgam on May 12. Since then, a Muslim woman artist, a Hindu schoolteacher, a wine shop staffer and three policemen were among the victims of targeted killings.

Thursday's attacks came within 24 hours of a civilian, Farooq Ahmad Sheikh, being shot at in Pulwama.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 11

Security personnel cordoning off the area after the attack. • NISSAR AHMAD & PTI

CCTV grab of a man opening fire inside the bank

Killing spree | Two non-local civilians were killed in Kulgam and Budgam districts of Kashmir on Thursday

1 Vijay Kumar, a bank manager from Rajasthan, was shot dead inside Ellaquai Debati Bank in Kulgam

■ Mr. Kumar, right, who got married just six months ago, was living with his wife in Qazigund area

2 Dilkhush, a migrant labourer from Bihar, was killed when terrorists opened fire at workers of a brick kiln in Budgam. Another labourer escaped with injuries

CONG. SLAMS CENTRE ▸ PAGE 12

No let-up in protests by Pandits trying to relocate

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

There was no let-up in protests by Kashmiri Pandit employees working in the Valley, on Thursday, as their bid to leave the transit colonies for Jammu was foiled by the administration. Meanwhile, the Lieutenant Governor's administration has passed orders to post Pandit teachers in safer locations in the Valley.

Kashmiri Pandit employees – with over 4,000 of them living in different colonies in Anantnag, Kulgam, Budgam, Ganderbal, Baramulla and Kupwara – held sit-ins within their transit camps in the Valley.

Official sources said there were bids by a few employees to leave their flats for Jammu in protest, but were stopped. "As part of mass migration and resignation, we tried to leave the Mattan transit camp but were disallowed," a Pandit employee said. There is still a deadlock between the Lieutenant Governor's administration and the demand of protesting Pandit employees over their relocation outside the Valley.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 11

Govt. not for relocation of Pandits now

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Centre is not in favour of moving Kashmiri Pandits and Hindus from the Kashmir Valley to Jammu as it would be a repeat of the situation in the 1990s when thousands migrated out of the Valley under government's watch in wake of repeated threats and attacks, a senior government official said on Thursday.

"The administration cannot agree to the demands of minorities to move them to Jammu. The government employees can be posted in district headquarters and at places where adequate security is available," said the official.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah met National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Secretary, Research and Analysis WingSamant Goel and Special Director, Intelligence Bureau A.S Rajan on Thursday.

Mr. Shah is expected to meet Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday to discuss the security arrangement for Amarnath Yatra and the recent killings are likely to be discussed.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 11

'No language is less than Hindi, English'

All are national languages: Pradhan

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

No language is any less than Hindi or English, said Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan at a conference of Education Ministers from across the country.

He said the Centre would work with State governments to frame policies, like "five fingers coming together to form a fist".

"For the past many days, there have been many doubts over the issue of languages. All languages are national languages, whether it is Gujarati or Tamil, Punjabi or Assamese, Bengali or Marathi. No language is less than Hindi or English," the Minister said at the two-day National Education Ministers' conference in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The conference, which saw representations from 32 States and Union Territories, concluded on Thursday.

Dr. K. Kasturirangan, head of the drafting committee of the National Education Policy, consciously coined the term "local languages" or mother tongues such as tribal languages, and had discussed reviving them with the help of technology, Mr. Pradhan said.

The Minister also announced a new scheme called "PM Shri schools", which he said would be a step ahead of exemplar schools such as Kendriya Vidyalaya and Navodaya Vidyalaya.

Dharmendra Pradhan

"There are a total of 15 lakh schools in the country, out of which 11 lakh are government schools. Of these, 1% will be PM Shri schools under a new scheme that will be framed after consultations with you. PM Shri schools will be a laboratory for the National Education Policy," he said in his address.

He said during his travels around the country he had learnt from different States about innovative methods adopted by them in the field of education, such as Karnataka's efforts to ameliorate learning losses during the pandemic, or a village in Odisha where learning material was being disseminated in the local tribal language or in Delhi where patriotism was being promoted in schools.

India, Israel to enhance defence ties

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

India and Israel on Thursday signed a 'vision Statement' to deepen the long-standing defence cooperation. This was adopted at a meeting between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his visiting Israeli counterpart Benny Gantz.

"The two Ministers presented a joint declaration marking 30 years of Israel-India relations and reiterated their commitment to deepening defence ties," Mr. Gantz's office said.

"During his meeting with Prime Minister Modi, Minister Gantz emphasised the opportunity to invest further in defence cooperation between both countries, while building on shared values to contribute to global stability," the Israeli Embassy said.

FUTURISTIC TECH ▸ PAGE 12

India sends senior diplomats to Kabul

'Taliban urge India to reopen Embassy'

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

India has sent a multi-member team of senior diplomats to Afghanistan for the first time since the Indian Embassy in Kabul was evacuated in August 2021 following the arrival of the Taliban at the Afghan capital. During discussions with the Indian delegation held on Thursday, the Taliban urged India to reopen its Embassy in Kabul, Suhail Shaheen, chief of the Taliban's political office told *The Hindu*.

The Indian team is being led by J.P. Singh, Joint Secretary, Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran division of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

"Post 15th of August, 2021, in the light of the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan, it was decided to bring back all India-based personnel. However, local staff continued to function and ensure proper maintenance and upkeep of our premises there. Our local staff have also been helping in the delivery of humanitarian assistance," the MEA's official spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

Officials with children at a school renovated with Indian help in Kabul. • PTI

Mr. Bagchi, however, said the visit did not amount to granting diplomatic recognition to the Taliban regime in Kabul.

Row erupts as 6 hijab-clad students are suspended

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

Row over Muslim girls wearing hijab in classrooms erupted again at the Government First Grade College at Uppinangady in Dakshina Kannada on Thursday, as six girls have been suspended for defying the college dress code.

Students boycotted classes over the dress code issue – some for and some against – even as a television journalist who had gone to the college for reporting complained to the police that a group of students had heckled, threatened, and confined him up in a room.

Sources said that some students turned up at the college sporting saffron shawls.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 4

Panel to hear appeals on social media posts

Draft comes amid Centre's stand-off with platforms over content moderation

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

The government has proposed a new panel that will have the power to overturn the decisions related to content moderation and take-down reached by social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, following appeals by users.

As per the draft of the proposed amendments to the IT Rules, 2021, the Centre will constitute one or more "grievance appellate committees" to deal with appeals by users against the decision of the grievance officer appointed by the social media intermediary.

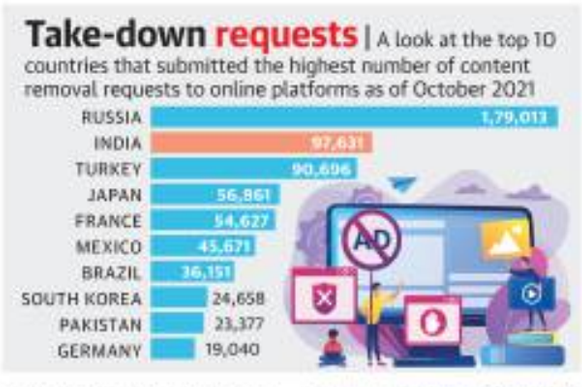
The draft was put up on the website of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), seeking comments and suggestions of stakeholders till June 22, 2022. However, it was not reflecting on the website from Thursday afternoon. While a senior government official confirmed that the proposed draft had not been withdrawn and may be a "technical glitch", the draft was not available on the Ministry's website till the time of going to press.

The proposal comes on the back of multiple stand-offs between the government and the social media platforms over content moderation and take-down. Last year, for example, Twitter had blocked several accounts posting messages in support of the farmers' agitation following government orders. The U.S.-headquartered firm later said it had only "withheld a portion of the accounts" identified by the MeitY within India, and was also served with a non-compliance notice following restoration of content that it believed was consistent with Indian law.

The amendments state that any person aggrieved by an order of the grievance officer appointed by a social media network may appeal to the grievance appellate committee within 30 days of receipt of communication from grievance officer.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 11

Take-down requests | A look at the top 10 countries that submitted the highest number of content removal requests to online platforms as of October 2021



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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Rise in violent content

37.8 In percentage, the rise in hate speech on the social media platform, Facebook in April when compared to March, according to a monthly report released by Meta. Violent and incitement-related content on Instagram also increased by 86% in the same month. According to the report released on May 31, Facebook detected 53,200 cases of hate speech in April, compared to the 38,600 in March. Instagram acted on 77,000 violence and incitement-related content in April compared to the 41,300 in March. PTI

Displaced in Myanmar

1 In million, the number of people displaced within Myanmar, with over half of them losing their homes after a military takeover in February 2021, according to a report by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Myanmar's army seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021, triggering widespread peaceful protests. The non-violent opposition turned into armed resistance, and the country slipped into civil war. The military has hindered access to areas not under its control, hampering aid efforts. AP

Increasing connectivity

13 The number of rail projects undertaken by the coal Ministry as part of the Gati Shakti-Nation Master Plan (NMP) to develop multimodal connectivity and identify missing infrastructure gaps. Four railway projects are successfully mapped in the NMP portal under high impact projects which will be developed in Jharkhand and Odisha. The Ministry informed that this will enable the movement of coal with rapid logistics and wider connectivity for all commercial miners. The Gati Shakti-NMP was launched in October 2021. PTI

Retrieving antiquities

10 The number of stolen sculptures handed over to the Tamil Nadu Government by the Central Government after being retrieved from Australia and the U.S. The collection of antiquities included figurines named Dwarapala, Nataraja, Kankalamurti Kadayam, Nadikeswara Kadayam, Four-Armed Vishnu, Sri Devi, Siva and Parvati, Standing Child Sambandar and Child Sambandar. During the handing-over ceremony, Culture and Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy said that the Centre will take initiatives to bring back antiquities from abroad. PTI

Capturing Ukraine

20 The percentage of Ukraine's territory currently occupied by Russia, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky told Luxembourg's parliament in a video address on Thursday. He added that the front lines of battle stretched across more than 1,000 kilometres. The President had informed that 2,00,000 children are among the Ukrainians who were forcefully taken to Russia and dispersed across the vast country. It has been estimated that more than 12 million people have been displaced in Ukraine. AGENCIES

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

China's growing footprint in the Pacific Islands

Why is China interested in the Pacific Island countries? What does China's inroads into the Pacific portend for regional geopolitics?

THE GIST

- During a meeting with the 14 Pacific Island Countries, China's effort to push through a comprehensive framework deal, the draft of which was leaked earlier, failed to gain consensus among the PICs.
- The Pacific Island Countries are a cluster of 14 states which are located largely in the tropical zone of the Pacific Ocean. These countries have played an important role in major power rivalry as springboards for power projection and laboratories for developing and demonstrating strategic capabilities.
- The PICs lie in the natural line of expansion of China's maritime interest. At a time when the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue has emerged as a major force in the Indo-Pacific vis-à-vis China, the need to influence the PICs becomes even more pressing for China.

ANAND V.

The story so far: Wang Yi, the Foreign Minister of China, is currently on an eight-day visit to ten Pacific Island Countries (PICs), and has co-hosted with Fiji the Second China-Pacific Island Countries Foreign Ministers Meeting on May 30, 2022. During the meeting, China's effort to push through a comprehensive framework deal, the draft of which was leaked earlier, failed to gain consensus among the PICs. Though this has raised regional concerns about China's growing footprint in the Pacific islands, it has also been seen as a demonstration of China's limitations in the region.

What is the strategic significance of the PICs?

The Pacific Island Countries are a cluster of 14 states which are located largely in the tropical zone of the Pacific Ocean between Asia, Australia and the Americas. They include Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The islands are divided on the basis of physical and human geography into three distinct parts – Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia. The islands are very small in land area, and are spread wide across the vast equatorial swathe of the Pacific ocean. As a result, though they are some of the smallest and least populated states, they have some of the largest Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) in the world. Large EEZs translate into huge economic potential due to the possibility of utilising the wealth of fisheries, energy, minerals and other marine resources present in such zones. Hence, they prefer to be identified as Big Ocean States, rather than Small Island States. In fact, Kiribati and FSM, both PICs, having EEZs larger than that of India. Moreover, these countries have played an important role in major power rivalry as springboards for power projection and laboratories for developing and demonstrating strategic capabilities. The major powers of the colonial era competed with each other to gain control over these strategic territories. The Pacific islands also acted as one of the major theatres of conflict during the Second World War – between imperial Japan and the U.S. Due to the remoteness of these islands from the Soviet Union and major population centres of the world, some of the major nuclear weapon test sites of the U.S., the U.K. and France were located here. In addition, the 14 PICs, bound together by shared economic and security concerns, account for as many number of votes in the United Nations, and act as a potential vote bank for major powers to mobilise international opinion.

What does China seek to achieve from the PICs and how?

China does not have any particular historical linkages to the PICs unlike the Western powers. Therefore, its interest in the PICs is of relatively recent origin, and is linked to China's rise in the past few decades. The PICs lie in the natural line of expansion of China's maritime interest and naval power. They are located beyond China's 'First Island Chain', which represents the country's first threshold of maritime expansion. The PICs are located geostrategically in what is referred to by China as its 'Far Seas', the control of which will make China an effective Blue Water capable Navy – an essential prerequisite for becoming a superpower. At a time when the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue has emerged as a major force in the Indo-Pacific vis-à-vis China, the need to influence the PICs have become an even more pressing matter for China.

The PICs are located geostrategically in what is referred to by China as its "Far Seas", the control of which will make China an effective Blue Water capable Navy

Apart from the vast marine richness of the PICs, the Taiwan factor plays a major role in China's Pacific calculus. China, which considers Taiwan to be a breakaway territory, is preparing for what seems like an inevitable military invasion. In this context, it becomes important to break Western domination of island chains of the Pacific which could impede reunification. Wooing the PICs away from the West and Taiwan will therefore make the goal of Taiwan's reunification easier for China. It has to be noted here that a zero-sum game has been underway in the past few decades in the Pacific between China and Taiwan in terms of gaining diplomatic recognition. China has been successful in getting diplomatic recognition from 10 out of the 14 PICs through its economic largesse. Only four PICs – Tuvalu, Palau, Marshall Islands and Nauru, currently recognise Taiwan.

What are the implications of China's latest move?

China has increasingly started talking about security cooperation in addition to its economic diplomacy towards the PICs. In April 2022, China signed a controversial security deal with the Solomon Islands, which raised regional concerns. Prior to the current visit of Wang Yi, two draft documents prepared by the Chinese side were leaked, and gained the attention of regional leaders in the Pacific as well as the larger international community. One of the documents is the "China-Pacific Island Countries (PICs) Common Development Vision", and the other is "China-Pacific Islands Five-Year Action Plan on Common Development (2022-2026)". The vision gives a broad proposal about co-operation in the political, security, economic and strategic areas, whereas the action plan outlines the more specific details of co-operation in the identified areas. The secrecy surrounding the draft, and the haste with which it was discussed with the governments of the PICs during the meeting sent worrying signals across the Pacific.

The PICs as a collective did not agree to China's extensive and ambitious proposals, and therefore China failed to get a consensus on the deal. In fact, the Prime Minister of FSM had sent a letter to all the PIC governments prior to the meeting, to consider China's proposals with caution, as they could have negative implications for the sovereignty and unity of PICs and may drag them into major power conflicts in the future. Some have argued that China has acted too boldly and has therefore met with such a debacle. China might have also miscalculated the regional reaction, perhaps led by a monolithic understanding of the PICs after seeing Solomon Islands' positive response earlier this year. However, China can always come back with improvised plan which is more acceptable and use it to further pursue its final objectives incrementally. Moreover, this debacle does not stop China from pursuing bilateral deals of similar nature.

The intensification of China's diplomacy towards the Pacific Islands have made the powers who have traditionally controlled the regional dynamics like the U.S. and Australia more cautious. The U.S. has started revisiting its diplomatic priority for the region ever since the China-Solomon Islands deal. The role played by the U.S. in mobilising opposition against China's proposed deal could not be ruled out as FSM is the only country which recognises China and at the same time is part of the Compact of Free Association with the U.S.. Australia, in the meanwhile, has sent its new Foreign Secretary Penny Wong to the islands for revitalising ties, with promises of due priority and assistance to the PICs.

Wang may leave the Pacific humbled at the end of his visit, but with more insights; the Western powers may have been relieved, but may have turned more vigilant; and the PICs may have become more united than ever before.

Dr. Anand V. is an Assistant Professor (Senior Scale) at the Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal (Karnataka)

Heated discussions: The Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum Henry Puna holds a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Suva, Fiji on May 29. • AFP

EXPLAINER

The Bihar government's caste-count

Why has the State BJP backed the exercise, while the Centre is opposed to a caste census?

AMARNATH TEWARY

The story so far: On Thursday, the Bihar Cabinet approved a proposal to carry out a caste-based 'count' in the State. Stopping short of calling it a census, the Janata Dal (United) government, which is an ally of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), said the State would spend its own resources for the exercise. The BJP at the Centre has been against holding a caste census, but Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and the JD(U) had been pushing for it. All political parties of Bihar, including the State BJP, had proposed conducting a caste count.

When will the exercise begin?

Details are awaited but Mr. Nitish Kumar said the exercise will be time-bound and that its report will be published. The Union Government had, earlier, snubbed the Bihar government's request for a caste census on the grounds that it would be a "divisive exercise". However, the State BJP members participated in the all-party meeting over the issue.

Why do all political parties support it in Bihar?

Almost all political parties in Bihar identify themselves with a particular caste, sub-caste or community for representation, and leaders cannot afford to take their political identity out of that caste or group. The objective behind this demand is to bring out the recent changes in caste groups and how resources may be best shared. The data will help the State government understand the exact population of various caste groups and assess the socio-economic development in every group, and the welfare schemes needed for their benefit.

Why is the BJP at the Centre against a caste census? What about the State unit?

The Union Government has categorically ruled out conducting a Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC), stating that a caste census (except that for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes done traditionally) is unfeasible, "administratively difficult and cumbersome." In the case of Bihar, the BJP's central leaders feel that the demand for a caste census in the State is an attempt to revive Mandal politics by identifying castes and sub-castes and their present status for electoral benefits. For the party, the upper castes, which

according to a rough estimate comprise 14% of the population, largely constitute its vote bank, and it fears that if there is a caste census the number of other castes, sub-castes and communities will be known and other parties who claim to represent different subsets of castes might unite against them politically and electorally. Months back senior BJP leader from Bihar and Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai had told Parliament that a caste census could not be carried out. The party's national spokesperson Guru Prakash Paswan said a caste census alone would not ensure social justice; but the party's Rajya Sabha member and former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Sushil Kumar Modi has been backing a caste census through his social media posts. Mr. Sushil Modi even said that the BJP always supported the idea within and outside the State Assembly. Again, the State BJP chief Sanjay Jaiswal recently said, "nothing happens in BJP without the will of the central party leadership". The BJP's ruling alliance partner JD(U) president Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh pointed out that "the BJP in Bihar was part of a House resolution on caste census" . The Bihar legislature, earlier, in 2019 and 2020, had passed a resolution for a caste-based census in the State. After Thursday's Cabinet meeting, the Nitish Kumar government said there would be a 'ganana' or count, and refrained from calling it a census.

What are the benefits of a caste count?

Social equality programmes and welfare measures cannot be successfully implemented without comprehensive data and for this a caste count is necessary in a State known to be fragmented into several castes, sub-castes, groups and communities. In a modern state, a count of every category of citizens is necessary so that they can get the benefit of all welfare measures, says political analyst Ajay Kumar. In the absence of such data, there is no proper estimate for the population of other backward classes (OBCs), extremely backward classes (EBCs) and several other groups within them, he added. A caste-based count goes a long way in bringing a measure of objectivity to the debate on reservations, according to Mr. Ajay Kumar. However, Sudhanshu Kumar, an associate professor at the Centre for Economic Policy and Public Finance, Patna, said, "if the objective of conducting a caste-based count is to get the caste distribution of the population, it does not require a costly exercise like a census. A proper statistical processing or analysis of the information with the government is sufficient for the purpose of public policy design. The usual Census data already provides information useful for formulating public policy."

Have such exercises happened in other States?

The Tamil Nadu government has appointed a commission to formulate a methodology to collect caste-wise particulars of its population and use that to come up with a report. States like Karnataka, Odisha and Telangana have carried out caste counts, calling it a "socio-economic survey".

THE GIST

- On Thursday, the Bihar Cabinet, along with the State BJP approved a proposal to carry out a caste-based 'count' in the State
- All political parties support the proposal as it will help the government understand the exact population of various caste groups and assess the socio-economic development in each group.
- The Union Government has categorically ruled out conducting a caste census as it would be "administratively difficult and cumbersome." In the case of Bihar, the BJP's central leaders feel that the demand for a caste census in the State is an attempt to revive Mandal politics.

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INMOCEAN-005/22

Dept. to crack down on unauthorised names and emblems on number plates

The move by Transport Department follows a circular issued by the State government on May 19

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Vehicle owners who display unnecessary or unauthorised names, emblems, association names of government departments and boards on their registration plates should get ready to pay fines as the Transport Department is preparing to crack down on them. This follows a circular issued by the State government on May 19.

The rule also applies to unauthorised names and emblems of non-governmental organisations on number plates. Although these rules have been in place for a few years now, the department plans to get more stringent with the enforcement henceforth.

"There has been a court order as well as government order regarding this. Displaying such unnecessary and unauthorised names, emblems, and other things on number plates is contrary to Rules 50, 51 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989 and Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act 1950," said T.H.M. Kumar, Commissioner for Transport and Road safety, at a press conference here on Thursday.

The fine for defective number plates in Bengaluru is ₹500 for the first offence and ₹1,000 for the second. •FILE PHOTO

The Commissioner added that vehicle owners should remove unauthorised registration plates with immediate effect to avoid fines. He further said that there will be stricter enforcement against vehicles which have fancy or unclear fonts or designs on their registration plates. The fine for defective number plates in Bengaluru is ₹500 for the first offence and ₹1,000 for the second.

"Except numerals and the series letters, nothing else should be on the registration plates like Secretary, President, or so. It is not that people do not know these rules already. They are well aware and some break the rules despite that. That is why we are taking up stronger enforcement," Mr. Kumar said.

The public seem to have their own doubts and apprehensions about the department's rules. "If common people break the rules, then they ask us to pay fines. But there are many actors, celebrities, and even politicians who have quirky fonts and designs on their expensive cars. Do the authorities ever take action against them?, asked Pratheek, software engineer.

To counter such problems, the department has announced a WhatsApp number 9449863459 for the general public to report the unauthorised number plates they see on the roads. "Public can take photos of the vehicle and send it to the number along with details about the location and suitable action will be taken according to the law."

Traffic police seek help from public

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The traffic police have launched a drive to penalise motorists riding with fancy and distorted number plates and has sought the help of the public to enforce the rules.

B.R. Ravikanthe Gowda, Joint Commissioner of Police, (Traffic), said fancy number plates with logos and names other than the specified design are illegal and will be dealt with seriously.

People who come across vehicles having fancy and distorted registrations plates with logos and names, designations on the number plates, can click pictures and upload them on the traffic police's Facebook page @bangaloretrafficpolice, Twitter @blrcitytraffic, WhatsApp on 9480801800, or via email - bangaloretrafficpolice@gmail.com or tmcbtp@gmail.com. The information shared will be kept confidential, Mr. Gowda said .

BBMP told to clear identified encroachments of two lakes

Survey was conducted on Subramanyapura and Begur lakes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday directed the designated officers of the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to take immediate steps to remove the identified encroachments of Subramanyapura and Begur lakes in the city.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice J.M. Khazi issued the directions after going through the reports of survey conducted by the State authorities on the encroachments of these two lakes. The Bench was hearing a batch of PIL petitions on the issue of protection, rejuvenation, and preservation of lakes.

The Bench said the designated officers of the BBMP will have to exercise the power under Section 22 of the Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority Act, 2014, to clear the encroachments.

A view of Subramanyapura lake in Bengaluru. •FILE PHOTO

- The Division Bench said the designated officers of the BBMP will have to exercise the power under Section 22 of the Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority Act, 2014, to clear the encroachments.

'Give notice'

The Act empowers the designated officers to summarily evict the encroachers after giving them notice in writing, and any order passed by the Officers can only be challenged before the district and sessions court.

Meanwhile, the Bench directed the State government to ensure that proper and necessary assistance is extended to the designated officers for removing the encroachments.

The encroachments on Subramanyapura lake as per survey report are one acres and seven guntas land utilised for the purpose of link road between Subramanyapura and Uttarahalli. Another encroachment is of three acres and 39 guntas of land, which is called Bhuvaneshwarinagara slum, notified as a slum in 2005 by the Karnataka Slum Development Board.

On Begur lake, the survey report had stated that encroachment of six acres and 37 guntas by private persons and of this an extent of one acre and 36 guntas is already removed.

Other encroachments are three acres and 26 guntas used for the purpose of Nice Road and public road etc.

Site owners hopeful as House panel visits Kempegowda Layout

Committee examined development of basic resources and facilities in layout

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The allottees of sites in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout are hopeful of getting solution to their problems such as lack of major arterial road and water supply in the upcoming days, after the petitions committee of the legislature, headed by Vishwanath Chandrashekhar Mamani, inspected the progress at the layout on Thursday.

The 16-member committee examined the development of basic resources and facilities in the layout, which is being developed by the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA), and also interacted with the allottees and heard their grievances.

A view of the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, between Magadi road to Mysuru road. •K. MURALI KUMAR

The allottees say that as the layout develops and people start to occupy the nine blocks, traffic density will also increase, for which, a major arterial road is necessary. They also say that the primary pipeline of Cauvery water supply to be brought in from Magadi Road to the layout should also pass through the arterial road. While some work has started on providing temporary power supply to the layout, works like underground drains and other amenities are still in the pipeline, according to the residents.

"Tender was called and work started on one out of the five substations for power supply near Konaghatta. The committee members said that by December, temporary solutions will be devised for the water supply. They told us that underground drain work was approved by the government on Wednesday and the pending dues of contractors will be settled soon. We think that in a month, full-fledged work can be seen here. But until all the approvals are received, we cannot say anything with certainty," said Suryakumar, an allottee.

He added that had the work been taken up six years ago when the allotments were made, the brunt of material costs would have been drastically less.

While the development work at the layout had taken a hit the last three years due to the pandemic, the BDA officials assured that if site owners come forward to build houses now, water, electricity and kaccha roads will be provided promptly.

Commissioner Rajesh Gowda said that experts from IIT-Bombay have inspected the moisture issue in the sites near Kannalli lake and a retaining wall will be built from the depth of 12 metres at a cost of ₹12 crore to ensure that moisture content does not enter the sites.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, S. Suresh Kumar, MLA, and one of the members of the petitions committee, said, "Answering one of my questions in the Assembly, the Chief Minister had told that all the problems there will be resolved by December 2022. The BDA Chairman, during the inspection, said that basic amenities will be provided for those who start building and that work will start soon on motorable roads. We have not closed this issue; we are keeping it open. In two months, we will review the progress again and then think about recommending our view points to the government."

Centralised patient monitoring system set up at NIMHANS

It will enable robust clinical surveillance, effective use of staff

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

For continuous and real-time monitoring of the vital parameters of patients coming into the Casualty and Emergency Block, NIMHANS has set up a next-gen centralised patient monitoring system.

This monitoring system - set up with support from HCL Foundation, the CSR arm of HCL Technologies - will enable robust clinical surveillance and effective utilisation of healthcare staff at the premier mental health institution.

The cloud-based solution will help monitor patients' vital signs simultaneously in real time integrating with electronic patient records and medical devices thereby facilitating remote review of patient status and streamlining workflows for the clinical staff.

NIMHANS Deputy Medical Superintendent Aravinda H.R. said vital parameters of patients such as blood pressure, oxygen saturation, ECG, and other probes attached to the patient will be connected to one centralised monitor.

A file photo of NIMHANS.

"The centralised system will be continuously monitored by our staff. With this surveillance, we can immediately intervene whenever some warning signs pop up in some patients and they can be immediately attended to," the doctor explained.

"Deteriorating vitals are an indication that the patient needs immediate attention. Such patients can be attended to immediately," he said.

NIMHANS director Pratima Murthy said the technology will add great value to clinical care, especially in the dynamic areas of the hospital where large numbers of patients have to be treated concomitantly.

"The advanced facility is initially being housed in the Day Care Centre at NIMHANS that has a capacity to accommodate 20 patients. Subsequently, it will be shifted to the Casualty and Emergency Block that is being revamped," she said.

"Accelerated adoption of telemedicine and digital technologies during the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the healthcare landscape. In keeping with the technological advancements, NIMHANS has implemented various measures including an efficacious telemedicine system to amplify patient care services," she said.

The centralised system will be formally inaugurated on Friday by Roli Singh, IAS, Additional Secretary, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

A statement from the institute said HCL Foundation, as part of its CSR initiative, has forged a partnership with NIMHANS to provide enhanced services to patients. Recently, HCL Foundation had also donated a portable DR X-ray unit and an advanced lifesaving ambulance to NIMHANS.

Road rage: Senior citizen, family robbed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 65-year-old man and his family were assaulted and robbed over road rage in Hulimavu on Monday. The family also alleged that the accused and passers-by gathered around and humiliated them for not speaking in Kannada.

Battered and bruised, Shashikanth Pandey reached the Hulimavu police station and filed a complaint. Based on the complaint, the police have registered a case against the unknown person charging him under robbery and outraging modesty.

Mr. Pandey and his family had gone to a hospital for consultation and was returning home by car. His son, who was driving the car, stopped on the way near a market to buy vegetables .

While he was getting down, an unknown person charged towards him and started assaulting him over road rage. Mr. Pandey, his wife, and daughter got down to save the son from the attack, but the accused allegedly groped the women and snatched a gold chain from Mr. Pandey.

B.Com students held for attempting to snatch gold chain from woman

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Two college students were arrested on Thursday for attempting to rob a gold chain from an elderly woman in Nandini Layout to repay their debt.

The accused boy and girl are classmates pursuing B.Com final year in a reputed college in Bengaluru.

According to the police, the accused had invested ₹15,000 on an online trading app and lost the money. They took a loan to repay the money invested and had a shortage of ₹5,000. The duo decided to snatch a chain to get the money.

As per the plan, they targeted Gayathri K.T., 65, a resident of Nandini Layout, while she was returning home from morning walk from a park. The duo had parked their scooter and were talking to each other outside the park. As she passed by, the girl followed her and threw chili powder on her face and tried to snatch her chain. Ms. Gayathri didn't give up despite her eyes and face burning, and held the chain tightly, making it difficult for the girl to snatch the chain. Meanwhile, on noticing a biker heading towards the spot, the girl left Ms. Gayathri and escaped.

Ms. Gayathri went home, washed herself and lodged a complaint with the Nandini Layout police. A case was registered. The police zeroed in on the duo with the help of CCTV footage.

The duo confessed to the police that they had invested money in a trading application expecting quick returns, but lost money. They searched how to make quick money on the Internet and one of the options was to commit chain snatching. They gave it a try, but their luck ran out in the first attempt, the police said.

Chance to play your favourite childhood game

Lagori tournament to be held for adults in the city on June 19

JAHNAVI T.R.
BENGALURU

Before gadgets took over all our free time, many had experienced the joy of indulging in a game that required little, but gave back much more. And if you are someone who has spent your childhood playing 'lagori' on your streets, you have a chance to win a prize.

Kreeda Bharathi (Bengaluru Mahanagara), a sports organisation, has organised a lagori tournament for adults in the city on June 19 at A.B. Vajapayee Rangamandira (Carmel school playground) in Padmanabhanagar. The registration process for the event has begun.

Lagori, also known as seven stones, is a popular game played in different parts of South India under different names. The game involves two teams –offenders and defenders, seven flat stones/tiles and a ball. The two teams participate in the demolishing and restacking of the stone pile throughout the duration of the game. Although there are no rigid rules, the game is usually played for points.

Players at a lagori tournament in Vijayapura. •FILE PHOTO

Kreeda Bharathi has organised this tournament with the intention to promote 'desi' (folk) games. They have also organised tournaments for kabaddi, tug of war, and other such games in the State in the past. "There is no person who has grown up in Bengaluru without playing lagori in their neighbourhood. We are just giving it a slightly more formal structure with this tournament. Rather than competition and prizes, we want to do this so that people can have fun playing," said Madhav Hebbar of Kreeda Bharathi.

The games will be organised in two separate categories of men and women and registration is open to people from all parts of the city within the age group of 18 to 50. Each team should have ten players in total, including three wizards. The total number of teams and games will be decided post June 6 (last day for registration), said the organisers. People in the city are also excited to relive their childhood days through the tournament. "I came across this tournament on social media. My friends and I played lagori for years together in our neighbourhood almost until we were 15-16 years old," said Sriharsha M., a resident of Vidyapeetha circle.

Those interested can call 98455 12621 or 9980565685 to register.

Driver among 3 held for trying to rob finance firm

They tried to open safe with gas cutter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A gang of three, including a private bus driver, were arrested by the Rajagopalnagar police on Thursday for allegedly attempting to rob Manappuram finance firm on May 26.

The accused, identified as Kumar, Nagaraj and Bahaddur Singh, broke open the shutter to gain entry into the firm and tried to break open the safe locker using a gas cutter after disconnecting the CCTV, when the branch manager got an alert and informed the police. By the time the police reached the spot, the accused had dumped their plan and escaped.

Based on the complaint, the police registered a case and analysed CCTV footage from in and around the area to track down the accused.

Investigations revealed that the prime accused is a private bus driver who had incurred huge loans and unable to repay, he hatched a plan to rob the finance firm. He roped in his friends Nagraj and Bahaddur Singh, a goods autorickshaw driver and an assistant working in a chicken stall, respectively.

The accused recced the area and struck the firm in the wee hours of May 26. However, they had to abandon the plan midway as they heard the police reaching the spot.

Items recovered

The police have recovered an LPG gas cylinder, gas cutter, an autorickshaw, a bike and an iron rod, two night gowns which they wore during the crime and two pairs of gloves used in the crime. They confessed to have attempted to steal money from an ATM machine in Rajagopalnagar, but failed.

The trio don't have a criminal background, the police added.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

When Kamal Haasan (almost) made a Bond film

Ahead of the new *Vikram* directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, we take a trip down memory lane to look at the original 1986 film and what it meant to people who grew up in the 1990s

SRIVATSAN.S

Movies you discover on your own during childhood tend to have a lasting impact. You get emotionally attached to those movies which later on act as gateways to nostalgia, reflecting the phases of life and the innocence that comes with it. As you grow older, your taste and sensibilities change but you still have a soft spot for the movies you saw as a child. You still feel for such films. For people who grew up in the 1990s, the Kamal Haasan-starrer *Vikram* was one such discovery.

Watching Kamal in silhouette as a quasi-Bond in the title track of *Vikram* sealed the deal for most of us. Our fascination also comes from the fact that it was the time when video games consoles – the ones that came in cassettes – were penetrating our lives. *Vikram* felt like one of those cool games you never wanted to end, especially the film's Salamia portion. Even Ilaiyaraaja's background music had that video game sound. What is still etched in memory are the multiple explosions that happen in the film (which felt real) and the fancy props including the missile named Agni Putra.

A Bond movie with a Tamil flavour

A lot of people still haven't seen *Vikram*. For their benefit, the film is about an intelligent agent Arun Kumar Vikram (played by Kamal Haasan) who is forced to rejoin the agency as a result of his personal loss. Vikram is assigned a task to retrieve a missing nuclear missile, which is in the hands of Sugirtharaj (Sathyaraj) who seeks asylum in a fictional kingdom called Salamia.

As the story goes, Kamal decided to adapt veteran Tamil writer Sujatha's *Vikram*, which was published as a series in a popular Tamil magazine. They worked on the screenplay, trying to marry the coolness of a Bond movie and the sensibilities of Tamil cinema.

Revisiting Vikram today, without the weight of childhood and nostalgia, did not make sense. Clearly it has stood the test of time, unlike some of Kamal's other works

Directed by Rajashekar, the film was a commercial success. But, over the years, Kamal has been a caustic critic and has often been dismissive of *Vikram*, saying that it was "diluted for the Kodambakkam audience". He said something to the effect of this: "Imagine Bond being assigned a task and before he gets on the mission, he has to stop by a temple and break coconut for Lord Ganesh. That's what happened to *Vikram* (sic)." You get why.

Revisiting Vikram today, without the weight of childhood and nostalgia, did not make sense. Clearly it has stood the test of time, unlike some of Kamal's other works. The reason could be the screenplay written by Sujatha and Kamal. You see the vision that they had but you also only see the ideas. The film today gives you the feel of being overstuffed with concepts for two kinds of films: an uber-cool Bond movie in the first half and a madcap action-adventure like Indiana Jones or Mad Max series in the second half. *Vikram* ended up being neither here nor there. Perhaps a more competent filmmaker may have managed to bridge this screenplay gap. And Rajashekar was never Kamal's first choice.

A quest for the right filmmaker

Even very recently, when Kamal was asked about Rajashekar's legacy at the *Vikram* press meet, he gave a measured reply by calling him a "great commercial filmmaker". "It [Vikram] was Mani Ratnam's cup of tea," wrote Kamal in an article in *The Hindu*, celebrating 25 years of Nayakan. Perhaps Kamal was right.

Action is a genre that Mani Ratnam has not done in his decades-long career. The closest he got was *Thiruda Thiruda*. Had Mani Ratnam directed *Vikram*, we might have even got a better film. But the master filmmaker wasn't favoured by commerce. Rajashekar had that edge of a "commercially-successful" director, having just delivered a blockbuster in *Kaaki Sattai* the year preceding *Vikram*. In fact, one suspects *Kaaki Sattai* was the reason Kamal went to Rajashekar in the first place, given that the successful combination of the director-actor duo along with actors Ambika and Sathyaraj were retained for *Vikram* too. Thirty-six years after the release of Vikram, Kamal seemed to have found the filmmaker he was looking for to execute his original idea in Lokesh Kanagaraj. No wonder Kamal has been promoting the new film left, right and centre. In the 231 films Kamal has acted so far, Lokesh has specifically picked an oddball like *Vikram* for a possible spin-off. This only goes to show the emotional attachment he has for the film, like most of us who caught it on television and were mesmerised by what we saw.

A self-confessed fanboy, Lokesh treads a thin yet dangerous line directing his screen idol Kamal Haasan in the new *Vikram*. If he fails to deliver, the fall will be greater. But if he succeeds, fans of the original would perhaps heave a sigh of relief thinking of Charuhasan's iconic dialogue right after *Vikram* completes his mission – "He has done it."

TRIVIA

- There are quite a few similarities between Kamal Haasan and Tom Cruise. The latter is hailed as the "last living action-superstar of our generation" and Kamal has always maintained that he is a fan of action films. Tom Cruise's *Top Gun* released in the same year as Kamal's *Vikram*.
- Though both these films were different in terms of their genre and experience, they share a common trivia: *Top Gun* and *Vikram* opened to mixed critical reviews but were commercially successful. Now both films have a sequels/spin-offs in *Top Gun: Maverick* and *Vikram*.

THE DAILY QUIZ

The playback singer, Krishnakumar Kunnath, popularly known as KK, passed away after a cardiac arrest at the age of 53. He was the voice behind several popular songs across languages. How well do you know the singer?

1 KK has sung film songs in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Marathi, Malayalam, Gujarati, Assamese, among others. But he was also the voice behind some 3,500 ad jingles, some of which are iconic. Identify the brands from the lyrics/name of the jingles which were sung by him in the 1990s—(a) Jab Ghar ki Raunak Badani Ho (b) Dhak Dhak (c) Yeh Dil Maange More.

2 With this song sung by KK, Deepika Padukone made her debut on the big screen. Name the song and the film in which her character was modelled along Hema Malini.

3 KK was one of the singers of 'Andangkaka Kondakari', a popular song in this Tamil film which was director Shankar's first collaboration with Harris Jayaraj and which won a National Award in the Special Effects Category. Name the film.

4 For which music composer did KK make his debut as a playback singer?

5 The songs 'Yaaron' and 'Pal' are often sung during school farewells and reunions. What is the title of the album which features these songs?

6 KK was not trained as a singer. He once said that he learnt that 'X' had never learnt music, so he had even more reasons not to go to a music class. Who is 'X', one of KK's inspirations who shares the same initials?

7 KK once said that it is difficult for him to sing in this language though he knew the language and wanted to sing more in this language. Which language is this?

◄ Who is the man in the photo who got KK his first jingle and was also responsible for arranging, composing and producing the singer's first album?

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions and Answers (abridged) to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This man was the chairman of the Telangana Joint Action Committee, an umbrella organisation formed in 2009. **Ans: M. Kodanda Ram**
2. This leader was the first general secretary of the CPI(M) after its split from the CPI. **Ans: P. Sundarayya**
3. One of the first regional engineering colleges located in this city, hosted a student who went on to become the first Indian employee of Microsoft. **Ans: The college is National Institute of Technology (formerly REC) located in Warangal. The name of the student is Rao Remala**
4. The world's largest multi-stage lift irrigation project. **Ans: Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project**
5. This 18-year-old from Telangana is the 54th grandmaster from India. **Ans: Arjun Erigaisi**
Visual: This famous tree, which is fabled to have been a host to thieves as a hideout. **Ans: Hathiyon-ka-jhad, a 400 plus year old baobab tree, Golconda Fort**

Early Birds: Ravindra Pal Singh| Vishnu Vardhan Reddy Moola| Neethu Kottayi| Dilip Kumar Sharma

Compiled by: Radhika Santhanam

EXPLAINER

Checking content in the music industry

What are the laws that govern music in India?

ANIL MALHOTRA

Traditional Indian music from 'gharanas' with rich cultural traditions and values has wafted through the air from time immemorial carrying legacies of fables, legends and ballads. But today the music industry – we are specifically looking at the music emanating from Punjab – is being tested on several fronts, including crass commercialism, vulgar overtones and misogynistic lyrics.

What are the laws on music in India?
Section 294 of The Indian Penal Code, 1860, punishes singing, reciting or uttering any obscene song in or near any public place with imprisonment of three months or fine or both. Entry 60 of The Union list of the Constitution of India empowers the Central government to enact laws for sanctioning of cinematograph films for exhibition. The Censor Board, in turn classifies films for restricted or unrestricted public exhibition. Further, the Government of India, under the Union list, can enact laws for wireless, broadcasting and other like forms of communication. Besides, there are content restrictions for cable television in the Cable Network Act, 1995 and restraints for internet in Section 67 of The Information Technology Act, 2000 which prohibits publication of obscene material in electronic form. Internet content is also controlled by guidelines for internet service providers who are under an obligation to prevent any obscene, objectionable and unauthorised material over their networks.

What about the States?
Besides these laws, States too have regulations in place to keep obscene content in check. For example, the Punjab Cinemas (Regulation) Act, 1952, governs matters relating to licensing and regulation of cinemas in the territory of Punjab. The Punjab Dramatic Performances Act, 1964, provides for better control of dramatic performances in Punjab and empowers the District Magistrate to prohibit any objectionable dramatic performance in a public place. The Music in Muslim Shrines Act, 1942 was enacted to control performances by girls in Muslim shrines and barred any woman or girl to either sing or dance in a Muslim shrine. Other than this, music for society in general, is unregulated by any State enactment applicable in Punjab, primarily because it is within the domain of the Government of India to make a regulatory law applicable throughout the territory of India.

Why is there a yawning gap?
Irrespective of the matter being a central subject, Entry 33 of the State list of the Constitution of India, empowers the State government to enact laws for theatres and dramatic performances, sports, entertainment and amusement. Since sound recordings are not regulated by any central enactment like the Censor Board certification for films under the Cinematograph Act, 1952, the music industry goes unchecked as song content has no regulatory mechanism. A song which is a combination of lyrics, composition and voices of a performer recorded in a studio, the producer is its first owner under the Copyright Act, 1957. Regardless, pirated music sold at abnormally low costs rules the roost. However, offensive and vulgar lyrics do not find statutory road blocks other than Section 294 of the IPC for punishing obscene acts and songs.

What is the remedy?
Under Entry 33 of the State List of the Constitution of India, the Government of Punjab is well within its powers to consider music as a part of "entertainment" and enact a new regulatory law to curb 'vulgar' music. The Music in Muslim Shrines Act, 1942 and The Punjab Dramatic Performances Act, 1964 are examples of Punjab legislation which can be emulated to put this proposition into practice. The need of the hour is to enact stricter legislation to keep an eye on composers and lyricists, after defining the contours of an indecent song.

Anil Malhotra, an alumni of SOAS, London, is an IAML Fellow

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Government of Karnataka
(Public Works, Department)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.W.D, SEDAM DIVISION, SEDAM

No.PWD/Ts-1/corrigendum/2022-23/585 Date:31-05-2022

CORRIGENDUM NOTIFICATION

Sub:- Tenders called in e-Procurement for the works under 5054- SH & 5054-MDR Improvements For The Year -2021-22 in Sedam and Chincholi Taluka.
Ref:- 1) This office tender notification No. 300, Dated : 04-05-2022.

With reference to the above subject, The tender called for the works from Sedam taluka Work Indent No. 151908, 151915, 151677, 151678, 151906 & 151907. Chincholi taluka Work Indent No. 152051, 156076 & 152086 are postponed by technical issue in the e-procurement Portal. The Calendar of Events for the works read is under.

1) Pre-Bid Meeting Date : **27/06/2022 upto 17.30 Hrs.** 2) Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **29/06/2022 upto 17.30 Hrs.** 3) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders : **30 /06/2022 at 16.00 Hrs.**, 4) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid : **01/07/2022 at 16.30 Hrs.** 5) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid: **02/07/2022 at 16.30 Hrs.**

Tender condition in the original notification remains same and the information may be got from the website of e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka **(https//www.eproc.Karnataka.gov.in)**

Sd/- EE P.W.D Division Sedam

DIP/Kalaburagi/230/MC&A/2022-23

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Medical Superintendent (Hosahalli Referral Hospital), 7th Cross, Prashanthnagar Main Road, Govindarajanagar, Bangalore - 560 079.

No.: HRH/PR/54/22-23 Date: 02.06.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Medical Superintendent (Hosahalli Referral Hospital) invites proposals from eligible bidders for following tenders:

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Name of the Services
1	HRH/PR/54/22-23	Providing Laundry Services to Hosahalli Referral Hospital, BBMP on outsourced basis.
2	HRH/PR/105/22-23	Providing Dietary Food Services to Hosahalli Referral Hospital, BBMP on outsourced basis.

1) Date of commencement of download of documents from e-procurement portal : **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 02.06.2022 onwards. 2)** Last date and Time for uploading Online Queries in e-Procurement portal: **06.06.2022 upto 5:00 P.M. 3)** Pre-bid Meeting : **06.06.2022 at 11.00 a.m.** 4) Last date for uploading tenders in e-Procurement portal: **17.06.2022 upto 5.00 p.m. 5)** Date of Opening of tenders : **18.06.2022 at 5.30 p.m.** Further details can be had from e-procurement portal : **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Medical Superintendent (Hosahalli Referral Hospital).

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KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-/22-23/2174 Dt: 01.06.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry no.: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/EPR-25 Date: 01.06.2022 for the work of **"supply of 66kV, 1000sqmm Straight through EHV cable jointing kits for using rectifications of cable faults in the jurisdiction of BMAZ South Circle".**

The bids will be received through e-Procurement mode only.

The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **03.06.2022.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele), Trans. (Maint.), BMAZ South Circle, KPTCL Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru-09.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
KALINADI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

No.: KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK_INDENT 12397 Date: 26.05.2022

BID NOTIFICATION

(Through e-procurement portal only)

KPCL invites sealed bids through GoK e-Procurement platform **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** for the work of **"Implementation of Two Source DC System by replacement of 2 Nos. Advanced technology 250V Station Battery Charger each consist of 70A Float Charger & 100A Float cum Boost Charger along with Battery Monitoring System, 1 No. of 250V Main DCDB Panel & 16 Nos. of 250V Sub DCDBs along with complete Networking at Nagjhari Power House".** covering all associated works and components to suit the site conditions, from reputed bidders with proven track record of successful completion of similar works. Date of pre-bid meeting: **08.06.2022 at 10:00Hrs.** Last date for receipt of completed bids: **25.06.2022 up to 16:00Hrs.** with EMD of **Rs. 2,06,000/-.** Date of opening of Part-I (Pre-qualification and Technical Bid): **27.06.2022 at 09:00Hrs.** Date of opening of Part-II (Price Bid) of the successful qualified bidders will be intimated later. Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (Generator) Nagjhari, KPCL, Ambikanagar-581363, Haliyal Taluk, Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka.** Mobile No.: **94495 99106**, E-mail: **eegennph@gmail.com & eegenkalikpcl@karnataka.gov.in.**

Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
Project (Mysore) Division

Post Bag No. 1, Yelwal, Mysore 571 130
Telephone:0821-2406721/6584 / Fax : 0821-2403064

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING TENDE Date: 01/06/2022

The Superintending Engineer, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mysore invites on behalf of the President of India, Sealed item rate tenders from experienced Contractors with sound financial & technical capacity for the following work(s):

Tender reference No.	**BARC/MYS/PM/PK/Structural/2022/**
Name of work	Minor modification of existing structural steel mezzanine including dismantling, supply, fabrication, welding, erection, and painting in DF – 2
Estimated Cost	**₹ 4,40,000 /- only**
Earnest Money	**₹ 8,800 /- only**
Period of Completion	**03 Months**
Security Deposit	2.5% of tendered value
Performance Guarantee	3.0% of tendered value
Cost of Tender Document	**₹ 500/- Only (Non-Refundable)**
Tender Sale Period	**02.06.2022 to 11.06.2022 (10.30 hrs. to 15.00 hrs.)**
Due date & time for submission of Tender	**11.06.2022 up to 15.10 hrs.**
Date & time of opening of Tender	**11.06.2022 up to 15.15 hrs.**
Place of Tender Submission	**Tender Box No.3 (Mechanical works) located, at Building No. 2, BARC, Yelwal, Mysore.**
Place of Tender opening	Office of Pay and Accounts Officer, Building-2, BARC, Yelwal, Mysore.
Contact Nos.	**Head of Division/EIC: 0821-2406584 /2406722 /6759 , Office : 0821 - 2406721**
Criteria of Eligibility for Issue of Tender Documents:	Three similar works each costing not less than 40% of the estimated value or two similar works each costing not less than 60% of the estimated tendered value or one similar work costing not less than 80% of the estimated tendered value during the last Seven years. I **Similar work means mild steel structural welding, fabrication and erection.**

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting Tender(NIT)for eligibility criteria and other details.

Superintending Engineer,
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
For & on behalf of the President of India

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajapet Division, BBMP Anganawadi Centre, 2nd Main, T.R. Mill Road Bengaluru - 560 018.

No.EE/CMP/TEND/E-Proc/04/2022-23 Date: 01.06.2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the works detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value of work (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Improvements of Footpath and drain from 5th Main road to 1st main near Apex Bank Pampamahakavi Road in Ward No. 140	50.00	1,00,000/-

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement portal from **06.06.2022** onwards. **2)** Last date for submission of tenders: **15.06.2022 upto 4.00 pm. 3)** Opening of Tender documents: **16.06.2022 at 4.15 pm.** Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or e-Procurement Helpdesk at 080-22485867 / 22485927 or contact the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division,

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that my client intends to purchase the properties detailed in the schedule below from its owner **Sri. G.Shantharam S/o Sri.G.Nagaraj.** If any person has any manner of right, title, interest, claim or objection for sale of the schedule properties, may forward your objections along with documentary proof to the undersigned, within 10 days from the date of this publication. If no objections are received, my client will proceed to purchase the schedule properties and any objections received thereafter, shall not be entertained.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Site bearing No.46/45/1, PID bearing No.15030020120032125 4, formed on property bearing Sy No.27/2 measuring 2 Acres and 10 guntas of Kamenahalli Village and Sy No.109/1 measuring 4 Acres and 6 guntas, situated at Hegganahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Measuring East to West 24.384 Meters and North to South 15.24 Meters in all measuring 371.60 Sq. Meters and bounded on:
East by : Site No.1; West by : Site No.8;
North by : Site No.2; South by : Road

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Site bearing No.46/45/8, PID bearing No.15030020120000089, formed on property bearing Sy No.27/2 measuring 2 Acres and 10 guntas of Kamenahalli Village and Sy No.109/1 measuring 4 Acres and 6 guntas, situated at Hegganahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Measuring East to West 24.384 Feet and North to South 15.24 feet in all measuring 371.60 Sq. Meters and bounded on:
East by : Site No.1; West by : Road;
North by : Site No.7; South by : Road.

A.SAMPATH, Advocate
No.20, 3rd Floor,
1st Main Road, Gandhinagar,
Bengaluru 560 009. Mob: 9845151157

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ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾಇಂ:ಲೋವಿಚಿ:ಇಇ-1:ಟೆಂಡರ್-11:2022-23/710 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31.05.2022

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಭ್ಯುದೇಶ 2000 ಮಾಗೂ ಅಕ್ಟ 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸ್ಯಾಂಪರ್ಧೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪಾಲುದಾರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ಇವರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ **ಆರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ** ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ **ಏಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಮತ್ತು ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.eproc.Karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ:- ಇ- ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ- ಏಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ:- ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ : 5054-04-337-0-01-133 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳ ವಿಶೇಷ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ (ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ):- (1) ಚಳ್ಳಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಧುರೆ ಗ್ರಾಮದಿಂದ ದಾಸೀನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದವರೆಗೆ ಕಿ.ಮೀ.0.00 ರಿಂದ 2.00ವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ (ಪ.ಇಂ. 149481) **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):-100.00 (2)** ಚಳ್ಳಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಮೊಳಕಾಲ್ಮೂರು ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಎಸ್.ಜಿ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಗೌರಸಮುದ್ರ, ಅಂಧ್ರಗಡಿ ಮಾರ್ಗ ಮನ್ನೇಕೋಟೆ, ಬಂಜಗೆರೆ, ಘಟಪರ್ತಿ, ಮುಲ್ಲಸಮುದ್ರ ರಸ್ತೆ ಕಿ.ಮೀ.8.50 ರಿಂದ 11.00 ವರೆಗೆ ಅಯ್ದುಭಾಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ (ಪ.ಇಂ. 151055) **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):-53.49 ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 5054-04-337-0-01-135 (ಯೋಜನೆ) ವಿಶೇಷ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ (ಎಸ್.ಡಿ.ಪಿ. ಎಸ್.ಸಿ.ಪಿ)-** (3) ಚಳ್ಳಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಪರಶುರಾಂಪುರ-ಜಾಜೂರು ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಮುಚ್ಚಾರಹಳ್ಳ ಗ್ರಾಮದವರೆಗೆ ಕಿ.ಮೀ.0.00 ರಿಂದ 3.00 ವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ (ಪ.ಇಂ. 149480) **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):-55.00 ಇ- ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ- ಏಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ:- ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 5054-04-337-0-01-133 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳ ವಿಶೇಷ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ (ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ):-** (4) ಚಳ್ಳಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಮೊಳಕಾಲ್ಮೂರು ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಮುಲ್ಲಸಮುದ್ರ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ (ಪ.ಇಂ. 151064) **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):-10.00 ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 5054-04-337-0-01-135 (ಯೋಜನೆ) ವಿಶೇಷ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ (ಎಸ್.ಡಿ.ಪಿ. ಎಸ್.ಸಿ.ಪಿ)** (5) ಚಳ್ಳಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಮೊಳಕಾಲ್ಮೂರು ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಮೈಲಾಪಹಳ್ಳ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಎಸ್.ಸಿ. ಕಾಲೋನಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ (ಪ.ಇಂ. 151044) **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):-10.00 (6)** ಚಳ್ಳಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಮೊಳಕಾಲ್ಮೂರು ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಮುಲ್ಲಸಮುದ್ರ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಎಸ್.ಸಿ. ಕಾಲೋನಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ (ಪ.ಇಂ. 151065) **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):-19.825**

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. 1 ಮತ್ತು 3 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಣೆಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ. (1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವಿವರಣೆಯು/ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ 16-06-2022 ಸಮಯ 17-30 (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ 17-06-2022 ಸಮಯ 16-00 (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ 18-06-2022 ಸಮಯ 16-01 (4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ 20-06-2022 ಸಮಯ 11-00 **ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. 4 ರಿಂದ 6 ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಣೆಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ.** (1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವಿವರಣೆಯು/ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ 16-06-2022 ಸಮಯ 17-30 (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ 17-06-2022 ಸಮಯ 16-00 (3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ 18-06-2022 ಸಮಯ 16-01 ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ (ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 08194 222446) ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್.ಒ. ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಸಾಫ್ಟ್‌ವೇರ್ ದೂ. ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 080 25501216 ಮತ್ತು 080 25501227 ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಿಕೆ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

DIPR/CTA/MCA/194/2022-23 ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಎ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ.ಡಿ, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, 2nd Floor, BBMP Building, J.C. Nagar Main Road, Munireddy Palya, Bengaluru - 560032.

No: EE/HBL/TEND/17/2022-23 Date: 02-06-2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Chief Commissioner / Zonal Commissioner, BBMP for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organization.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-1 or KW-2)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category	Estimate Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Flood Damage Protection Works in Ward No.18 - Radhakrishna Temple. **(ST)**	40.00	80000.00
2	Flood Damage Protection Works in Ward No. 19 - Sanjaynagar. **(General)**	40.00	80000.00
3	Flood Damage Protection Works in Ward No. 20 - Ganganagar. **(General)**	40.00	80000.00
4	Flood Damage Protection Works in Ward No. 21 - Hebbala. **(General)**	40.00	80000.00
5	Flood Damage Protection Works in Ward No. 22 - V. Nagenahalli. **(SC)**	40.00	80000.00
6	Flood Damage Protection Works in Ward No. 33 - Manorayanapalya. **(General)**	40.00	80000.00
7	Flood Damage Protection Works in Ward No.34 - Gangenahalli. **(General)**	40.00	80000.00
8	Flood Damage Protection Works in Ward No. 46 - J.C. Nagar. **(SC)**	40.00	80000.00

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Portal Website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. 2)** Tender Documents can be Uploaded from E-Portal on **04-06-2022 upto 16.00 Hrs. 3)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Proposals is **13-06-2022 upto 16.00 Hrs. 4)** Date of Opening of Financial Proposals is **16-06-2022 after 11.00 Hrs.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, BBMP.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, 1. MRS. UMA R., W/o. Mr. E.Gopala Reddy, **2. MR. E. GOPAL REDDY** S/o Mr.Era Reddy **3.MR.G.CHIRANTH REDDY** S/o Mr.E.Gopal Reddy, **4. MR. G. REVANTH ERA REDDY** S/o Mr.E.Gopal Reddy All are residing at No.429, Near CNS Store, Nellurahalli, Whitefield Post, Bangalore- 560066, are the absolute owners of the property described in the Schedule hereunder.

It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client has negotiated and decided to purchase the Schedule Property from the above said owners. All persons having any claims against or to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, G.P.A. transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office **within 15 days from the date of publication hereof,** failing which our client shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ITEM NO.I: All that piece and parcel of the **Dry land bearing Sy.No.33/2,(Old Sy.No.33) measuring to an extent of 0-27 Guntas,** situated at Chimandahalli Village, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on: **East by:** Property belongs to Akkamma;**West by:**Property belongs to Ashwathappa; **North by** : Property belongs to Munigillappa;**South by**:Property belongs to Husen Sabi.

ITEM NO.II: All that piece and parcel of the **Dry land bearing Sy.No.33/3,(Old Sy.No.33) measuring to an extent of 0-26 Guntas,** situated at Chimandahalli Village, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on;**East by:**Property belongs to Bhadrappa;**West by:**Property belongs to Adhilakshmamma; **North by :** Property belongs to Munigillappa; **South by :** Property belongs to Husen Sabi.

ITEM NO.III: All that piece and parcel of the **Dry land bearing Sy.No.33/4,(Old Sy.No.33) measuring to an extent of 0-27 Guntas,** situated at Chimandahalli Village, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on; **East by:** Property belongs to Ashwathappa; **West by :** Property belongs to Akkamma; **North by:** Property belongs to Munipillappa; **South by:** Property belongs to Husen Sabi.

ITEM NO.IV: All that piece and parcel of the **Dry land bearing Sy.No.33/5,(Old Sy.No.33) measuring to an extent of 0-28 Guntas,** situated at Chimandahalli Village, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on: **East by :** Property belongs to Adhilakshmamma; **West by :** Property belongs to Munichinnappa; **North by :** Property belongs to Munipillappa; **South by :** Property belongs to Husen Sabi.

ITEM NO.V: All that piece and parcel of the **Dry land bearing Sy.No.48/3,(Old Sy.No.48/1) measuring to an extent of 0-30.12 Guntas,** situated at Chimandahalli Village, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on: **East by :** Property belongs to Adhilakshmamma; **West by :** Property belongs to Bhadrappa; **North by :** Property belongs to Munipillappa; **South by :** Property belongs to Husen Sabi.

ITEM NO.VI: All that piece and parcel of the **Dry land bearing Sy.No.48/4,(Old Sy.No.48/1) measuring to an extent of 0-30.12 Guntas,** situated at Chimandahalli Village, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on: **East by :** Property belongs to Ashwathappa; **West by :** Property belongs to Akkamma; **North by :** Property belongs to Munipillappa; **South by :** Property belongs to Husen Sabi.

ITEM NO.VII: All that piece and parcel of the **Dry land bearing Sy.No.48/5,(Old Sy.No.48/1) measuring to an extent of 0-04.12 Guntas,** situated at Chimandahalli Village, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on: **East by :** Government Road; **West by:**Property belongs to Adhilakshmamma; **North by:** Property belongs to Munipillappa; **South by:** Property belongs to Husen Sabi.

Dated this 3rd day of June 2022 at Bangalore

M/S. LEGAL NEXUS,
ADVOCATES & CONSULTANTS,
No. 428, First Floor, 25th Cross, 24th Main, Sector 2, HSR Layout, Bangalore – 560102. Phone: 080-65555914, Mob: 9945688974; 9164150990, 6362102374

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Client **Ms.Suman Shrivastav,** the owner of a 2 BHK Flat bearing No.TC-903, on the 9th Floor, in C Block, in the residential complex **"PURVA MIDTOWN RESIDENCES"**, situated at **Benniganahalli Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** affirms that the Original Sale Agreement and Construction Agreement dated 20/6/2011 in respect of the said flat has been lost/ misplaced and is not in a position to trace the said original agreements. A complaint for the loss of the said Agreements is filed in the Bangalore police Unit on 27/5/2022 bearing Lost Report No.0232064/2022.

Any person/s in possession of the aforesaid documents may return the same to us or anyone having any sort of claim over the said Property may lodge their objections in writing within **15 days** from this day to the undersigned.

PRASHANTH VIJAYALAKSHMI & ASSOCIATES, Advocates,
No.162, 1st Floor, Above Venkateswara Mobile Store, Next to Kanthi Sweets, 2nd Main Kasturinagar, Bangalore-43. Ph: 080-42065536.

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LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE KARNATAKA STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION BASAVA BHAVAN, HIGH GROUNDS BANGALORE-560001. Under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986

First Appeal No. 2098/2018
(Against the order dated 06 Jun 2018 in Complaint Number CC/930/2018 of the District Forum Bangalore 1st & Rural Additional)

Smt. Letitia Gomes ... Petitioner/ Complainant/ Appellant:
Versus
Aaryan Estates ... Opposite Party/ Respondent(s)

Opposite Party / Respondent Name

1. Aaryan Estates, Office at: No. 615, 2nd Floor, 14th Cross, 1st phase, J.P. Nagar, Bangalore-560078. Rep. by its Partners 1: Arun Kumar Singh, 2. Aaysha Ansari

2. Arun Kumar Singh, Partner, Aaryan Estate, No.615, 2nd floor, 14th cross, 1st phase, J.P.Nagar, Bangalore- 560078. 3. **Ms. Aashya Ansari,** Partner, Aaryan Estates, No.615, 2nd floor, 14th cross, 1st phase, J.P.Nagar, Bangalore-560078.

APPEAL NOTICE UNDER SECTION 41 OF THE C.P.A. TO THE RESPONDENT NO.1 TO 3 FOR HEARING OF APPEAL

Whereas, the Appellant has filed the above appeals against the orders passed by the 1st Addl. District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Bangalore Urban in complaint 930/2018 dated: 06/06/2018. You are hereby notified to appear before this Hon'ble Commission in person or through a pleader or person authorized as per law to answer all the material facts relating to the Appeals on **15th day of June 2022** (Fifteenth day of June, Two Thousand Twenty Two) at 11.00 AM.

Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the day mentioned above Appeal will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under the hand and seal of this Commission on 29-03-2022.

By order of the Commission, Asst. Registrar-Cum-Asst. Admn. Officer, K.S.C.D.R.C, Bangalore-560001.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of General Public that our Clients have entered into Agreement for purchase of Site No.6, (formed in Sy No.19&20), Horamavu Village, K.R.PURM Hobli, Bdore East Tlq, Measuring E-West: Northern Side : 103 ft, Southern Side:106 ft and N-S:41 feet in all measuring 4325.5 sq ft and bounded on the **East By:** BWSSB Water Board Compound, **West By:** Road, **North by:** Site No. 5, **South by:** Site No. 7, from its Agreement Holders **Mr. GANESH NAIDU VADLAMUDI, S/o., Mr. Jayarama Naidu, Mrs. MOUNIKA CHOWDARY.L,** W/o., Mr. Ganesh Naidu Vadlamudi, residing at Flat No. 401, 4th Flr, Ruhu Homes Apartment, Dr. Rajkumar Layout, Hormavu Main Road, Kalkere Bengaluru-43 and its Owner Smt Namatha, W/o., R. Mohan Reddy, Any persons having obj

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JUN. 03
RISE 05:53 SET 18:43
RISE 08:48 SET 22:04

SATURDAY, JUN. 04
RISE 05:53 SET 18:43
RISE 09:40 SET 22:49

SUNDAY, JUN. 05
RISE 05:53 SET 18:44
RISE 10:31 SET 23:32

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	25
Mysuru	33	21
Bengaluru	30	21

Bengaluru Today
31°C The weather will be slight warm but humid. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower is likely.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C A slight warm but humid weather to prevail. Night will be comfortable.Chances of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower.

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State's only skin bank unable to meet high demand

So far, it has been able to cater to only 127 of 235 requests

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

While organ donation is picking up in the State, awareness about the concept of skin donation is yet to catch up. Since its inception in March 2016, the State's first and only skin bank set up at the government-run Victoria Hospital has had only 145 donations.

Following this, the bank, set up in association with Rotary Ashirvad, has barely been able to meet 54% of the demand by patients for skin. While the bank has received requests from 235 patients for skin so far, it has been able to cater to only 127.

Skin donations that more than doubled from 18 in 2016, the first year of inception, to 40 in 2017 are on a declining trend since then. While there were 33 donations in 2018, the next year saw 17 donations. After that, when the pandemic hit the State in 2020, there were just nine donations. This number doubled to 18 in 2021 and this year so far 10 donations have happened. This year, while January had zero donations, the next three months saw one, two, and one donations respectively followed by six donations in May.

Attributing this to stigma and a lack of awareness, doctors said people are ready to donate eyes and other organs but are not convinced with donating skin as they feel it will disfigure the body. "That is a myth as only the outer layer of the skin from the thighs and legs (1,000 to 1,500 sqcm) will be removed," K.T. Ramesh, Head of the Department of Plastic Surgery in Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI), told *The Hindu*.

How skin donation is done

- Skin has to be harvested within 6 hours of death either at hospital or at home
- Harvesting is done from hidden areas such as the back or the thigh with no bleeding or deformity to the body
- Procedure lasts 30 minutes
- Harvested skin is then processed and stored for dispensing
- Cadaver skin is preserved in sub-zero temperature at the bank

In case of death of a dear one, relatives can call **080-26703633/8277576147** to donate skin

Demand-supply gap

2016	Demand 15	Supply 7	(18 donations)
2017	Demand 35	Supply 22	(40 donations)
2018	Demand 60	Supply 36	(33 donations)
2019	Demand 50	Supply 29	(17 donations)
2020	Demand 20	Supply 9	(9 donations)
2021	Demand 25	Supply 11	(18 donations)
2022	Demand 30	Supply 13	(10 donations)

Total: Demand 235, Supply 127 (145 donations)

Among the recipients, while the youngest is a four-year-old boy, the oldest is an 85-year-old male. "A 24-year-old acid attack victim, who is under treatment at St John's Medical College Hospital, has been given donated skin thrice from our bank," the doctor said.

Apart from requests from hospitals across the State, the bank has catered to several patients at the Mahabodhi burns ward in Victoria Hospital. "The burns ward gets nearly 220 admissions every month of which over 70% are serious cases. Over 20% of the total 127 beneficiaries so far are from the burns ward," Dr. Ramesh said.

"The skin bank is a boon for patients as there is no blood group matching required in skin grafting. Anyone over 18 years who does not have any skin disease or infections can donate skin," Dr. Ramesh said.

Senior nursing officer Nagaraj B.N., who is the coordinator at the bank, said the growing demand has plummeted the storage at the bank. "Before the pandemic, we used to have a storage of around 4,000 sqcm. Now we hardly have 1,000 sqcm. Many times, families of people who have pledged do not inform us after their demise. This is mainly due to misconceptions," he said.

Before the pandemic, BMCRI had roped in Kannada film actors Prem and Kumar Bangarappa to popularise the concept of skin donation. "While the actors participated in a few awareness programmes, our skin bank team visited colleges and public functions to create awareness. Although the celebrity promotions stopped during the pandemic, general awareness programmes and social media promotions are on," Dr. Ramesh added.

BBMP polls: BJP to prepare vision document

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party has decided to prepare a vision document for Bengaluru's development as part of its manifesto ahead of the BBMP polls.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the party's Bengaluru city legislators including Ministers and office-bearers held under the leadership of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and State president Nalin Kumar Kateel on Thursday to review the party's preparations for the polls.

The Chief Minister told mediapersons after the meeting that an experts' committee would be formed to prepare the vision document. He said the meeting had decided to expedite the ongoing development works in Bengaluru city especially keeping in mind monsoon. The legislators and party leaders had also suggested that such a meeting should be held once every fortnight to regularly review the preparations for BBMP, he said.

'Textbooks should have facts, not ideology'

S.L. Bhyrappa feels protests are politically motivated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Kannada writer and Saraswathi Samman awardee S.L. Bhyrappa said that school textbooks 'should contain facts, and they should not be altered to suit a particular ideology'.

Speaking to mediapersons in Mysuru on Thursday, Mr. Bhyrappa said textbooks cannot be changed to prop up the ideology of any government. Referring to treatment of Tipu Sultan or Aurangzeb in historical books, Mr. Bhyrappa claimed that their 'misdeeds' have been glossed over and attempts to correct them results in protests.

Hinting that the revision of textbooks was initiated by the Congress to pursue its views and ideology, Mr. Bhyrappa said he was the member of a committee constituted by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in the late 1960s, and its chairman G. Parthasarthy hinted at removing 'objectionable materials' from history books as they were inimical to integration of the country.

Kannada litterateur S.L. Bhyrappa speaking to mediapersons in Mysuru on Thursday. • M.A. SRIRAM

When he objected, the committee was reconstituted within 15 days. He was dropped from the committee for airing his views. The NCERT book on social sciences was adopted by all the States run by the Congress, said Mr. Bhyrappa.

Any attempt to usher in change faces resistance and opposition to it takes various forms, said Mr. Bhyrappa.

- Referring to treatment of Tipu Sultan or Aurangzeb in historical books, Mr. Bhyrappa claimed their 'misdeeds' were glossed over and attempts to correct them results in protests.

"We saw this when a section of writers opposed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi began returning awards to create an impression that the country is becoming intolerant," the writer added.

The current agitation against the revision of textbooks in Karnataka follows the same pattern, he said.

Referring to a section of students trying to lay siege to the house of Minister for Primary and Secondary Education B.C. Nagesh, Mr. Bhyrappa said students, on their own volition, will not resort to such moves unless they have some backing, hinting that the protest against revision of textbooks is political in nature.

Ban orders imposed in Srirangapatna

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

The district administration in Mandya has clamped prohibitory orders under section 144 with effect from 6 p.m. on Friday to 12 a.m. on Sunday in Srirangapatna.

The ban order has been clamped to ensure peace and maintain law order as various pro-Hindu groups have called for "Srirangapatna Chalo" agitation on Saturday in a bid to lay siege to the Jamia Masjid which, they claim, has been built after demolishing a Hanuman temple. In view of the ban, processions, jatha, rally or protests will not be allowed in the Srirangapatna town limits, according to authorities.

The right-wing groups have alleged that the 18th century mosque built during the period of Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan and was on the site of a temple which was demolished though the main deity was shifted.

The VHP, Bajrang Dal and other groups have been staking claims over the site where the mosque exists and recently submitted a memorandum to the authorities in Mandya seeking a video survey on the lines of survey ordered at Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi.

The build-up staking claims for the mosque has been on since the last few months and a major rally was held in December 2021 during the Hanuman Maladharane programme organised by the members of the Hindu Jagarana Vedike.

State sees 297 new cases

Health Minister tests positive

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Thursday saw an uptick in cases with 297 new infections. This is after a gap of three months. It was last on February 28 when the State had seen around 300 cases.

With this, the day's Test Positivity Rate (TPR) rose to 1.45%. Of the new cases, 276 have been reported from Bengaluru Urban alone. This includes 30 late reported cases of June 1 in the State capital. With zero deaths, the State's toll remained 40,065.

As many as 187 persons were discharged on Thursday taking the total recoveries to 39,10,266. Active cases touched 2,204.

Health Minister K. Sudhakar tested positive for COVID-19. The Minister tweeted, "I have tested positive after being uninfected for three waves of the pandemic." He said he had mild symptoms.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the Public that, my client, **Mr. BADARINATHA SHETTY** Son of Sri. Satyanarayana Setty, Aged about 43 years, Residing at No. 1211, 7th Main, 2nd Cross, Near Shanimahathma Temple, Subbanna Garden, Vijayanagar, BANGALORE-560 040, entered in to a Sale Agreement to purchase the Schedule Property from its Present owner, **Smt. VEENA.S Wife of Sri. Yadiyarappa**, Aged about 37 years, Residing at No. 38, (Previously 40) Kodigehalli, Yeshwanthapura Hobli Bangalore North Taluk Bangalore-560091 along with a Consenting Witness of her Husband **1. Sri. Yadiyarappa and Children. 2. Master K.Y. Purith** aged about 15 years **3. Kumari. K.Y.Chaithanya** Aged about 12 years Minors represented by Minor By Guardian Mother Smt. Veena.S and **4.Smt. B.R.Hemalatha** and **5. Sri. S.Mahesh Kumar.** Any person/s, any other legal heirs/ representatives, having any claim, right, title and interest or possession mortgage, hypothecation, lien etc., have got any objection or opposing the above referred transaction whatsoever may lodge his/their objections or claims with supporting documentary evidence /proof to the undersigned within **SEVEN (7) Days** from the date of this notice/publication, failing which it may be presumed that there are no objections or claims to complete the **SALE TRANSACTION** in favour of my clients. Any objections/ claims received after the lapse of SEVEN (7) Days will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that place and parcel of an immovable property bearing 111 (One Hundredin Eleven) of Khatha No.76 Assessment No.76 situated at Byadarahalli, Herohalli Dhakale, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Presently comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP Property bearing No. 111, Situated at Balaji Layout BBMP Ward No. 72, measuring East to West: 40-00 (Fortyft., North to South 30-00(Thirty)ft., totally measuring 1200 sq.ft., consisting of Ground Floor, First Floor and Second Floor 25 squares R.C.C. Roofed House together with Civic amenities and bounded on;East by : Road, West by : Property bearing No.106, North by : Property bearing No.110, South by : Property bearing No.112.

L. LAKSHMINARAYANA, B.Com., LLB., **Advocate,** #1462/33, Pipe Line, Vijayanagar BANGALORE - 560 040.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. SWR/W/TS/ USFD/2022/03/E Date: 31.05.2022

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl	Name of work	Approx. Value
1	Ultrasonic Testing of Rails in Mysuru division of South Western Railway as per Indian Railway Standard Specifications Ultrasonic Rail Testing of Rails for a period of 24 months.	Rs. 1,01,98,586/-
2	Ultrasonic Testing of Welds in Mysuru division of South Western Railway as per Indian Railway Standard Specifications Ultrasonic Rail Testing of Welds for a period of 24 months.	Rs. 30,88,526/-

Last Date of Submission of bids: **Up to 11:00 hrs. on 27.06.2022**

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer /Track Procurement/HQ Hubballi

S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

12,000 people to perform yoga with Modi on palace premises

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Nearly 12,000 people will be allowed to take part in the main yoga day event on June 21 to be held on the palace premises in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate.

Deputy Commissioner Bagadi Gautham, Commissioner of Police Chandragupta and senior officials from the Ministry of Ayush conducted a preliminary meeting regarding the event, on Thursday.

Vikram Singh, Director, Ministry of Ayush said Mysuru is renowned as a cultural city and has made immense contribution to the popularisation of yoga and draws international students. The city has produced renowned yoga experts and hence Mr. Modi opted to be in Mysuru for the main yoga day event which will shore up the city's brand and reputation as a destination for yoga, said Mr. Singh.

He said the event is being conducted by the Ministry of Ayush and performance of Yoga not only bestows physical and mental health but also provides peace of mind. He said there will be a yoga exhibition including digital display on June 20 and 21 at the Dasara Exhibition Grounds.

Ishwar D. Basavaraddi, Director, Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, which is also part of the event, said as the country is celebrating the 75th year of independence this year, the yoga day is being held at 75 iconic places and the event will be televised live.

At the Mysuru palace the crowd of 12,000 people will include school students, police personnel, pourakarmikas, differently abled, transgenders and people from various walks of life.

CSIR-INSTITUTE OF MICROBIAL TECHNOLOGY
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
Sector 39-A, Chandigarh - 160 036 (INDIA)
Phone : 0172-2880200, 2880201 Website : www.imtech.res.in
CSIR-IMTECH

NOTICE FOR EXTENSION OF DATE FOR FACILITY OUTSOURCING

Expression of Interest (EOI) Advertisement No. 01/2022 dated 13th May, 2022 was published in this newspaper regarding **"Outsourcing the operation of its instrumentation facilities". The last date to visit the respective facilities is now extended to 17.06.2022 up to 05.30 pm.** The other terms and conditions remain unchanged. Please visit https://www.imtech.res.in for further details. Stores & Purchase Officer
Ph. No. : 0172-2880106

Government of Jharkhand
Rural Works Department
JHARKHAND STATE RURAL ROADS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (JSRRDA)
3rd Floor, F.F.P. Building, Dhurwa, Ranchi 834004
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (SHORT TENDER)
(National Competitive Bidding Through e-Procurement)

Re-eTender No.-13 /2022-23 Dated:

PR No- 268173 Dated. 01.06.2022

The undersigned on behalf of Government of Jharkhand invites item rate bids through e-Procurement from the eligible bidders registered* in appropriate class with any State/Central Government/State /Central Government Organization for construction of Bridge and maintenance for five years of the works (List of schemes shall be displayed in the website pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in) of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (RCPLWEA).

The bid should be submitted online in the website **pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in**. The bidders should have valid Digital Signature Certificate for online submission of bid.

Sl. No.	District / Block	Repackage	Name of Bridge		Length (in Km)	Total Package Cost (in Lakh)	Earnest Money (in Lakh)	Completion of Time
1	3	4	5		6	7	8	9
1.	Saraikela-Kharsawan / Kuchai	JH-BR-LWE-II-SRK-02 /21-22 (2nd Call)	O-Taramba to Atra	Construction of H.L.Bridge At Ch-6+400 km In Ludubera to Chitpin via Komai Jambro	39.12	391.59	3.92	30th March 2023
			O-Taramba to Atra	Construction of H.L.Bridge At Ch-7+300 km In Ludubera to Chitpin via Komai Jambro	39.12			

Details of bid submission is as under:

Procurement Officer	Place of Opening	Availability of tender (on-line) for bidding		Last date and time of seeking Clarification	Date & time of opening (on-line) of tender	
		From	To		Technical bid	Financial bid
1	2	3	4	6	8	9
Chief Engineer, JSRRDA, Ranchi	Chief Engineer, JSRRDA, Ranchi	**03.06.2022 at 10.00 AM**	**13.06.2022 upto 5.00 PM**	**10.06.2022 upto 5.00 PM**	**14.06.2022 at 5.00 PM**	To be informed later

** Non-registered bidders may also submit bid, however the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authority before signing the contract.*

Note :-

1. Amount of Bid Security should be taken as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding Document.
2. Cost of Bid Document (Rs. 10000) and Bid Security (as mentioned in the Bid Data Sheet) shall be deposited **online** in form as mentioned in Bid Data Sheet failing which the bid will be treated non responsive and action shall be taken as per Sec. 2 of ITB clause 12.2 (d). Online payment through RTGS/ NEFT should not be made through SBI.
3. In case, it is found, even after the award of work that the bidder has submitted/ uploaded any false/erroneous/fraudulent statement/document, he/she is liable for blacklisting and forfeiture of Bid Security.
4. Bidders must submit GST registration certificate without which bid is liable to be rejected.
5. Bidders whose names appear in the Debar/blacklist of RWD, any department of GoJ/GoI (including JSRRDA) shall not be allowed to participate in the above bids.
6. Bids submitted by bidders, who have long pending ATR(s) / made inordinate delay in execution of earlier allotted construction/ maintenance works of PMGSY, may be rejected summarily.
7. In case of any discrepancy/dispute about units/ amount in BOQ, units/amount as mentioned in Current SOR on which BOQ has been prepared shall prevail. Discrepancy in amount shown in Form of Bid Part-II in words and figures shall make bids non responsive.
8. Participating bidders are free to submit grievances, if any, against the decision of technical evaluation within five working days from the date of uploading of decision of technical evaluation only through email at jh-ce@pmgsy.nic.in. Grievance submitted after stipulated period shall not be considered.
9. Bidders must have valid registration with Employee Provident Fund organization under EPF and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952 failing which the bid shall be rejected.
10. Bidders must not quote rate for routine maintenance. The amount for routine maintenance as indicated in the Bill of Quantities must be acceptable to bidders.
11. For unbalanced bids, extra performance security will be required to be deposited by the bidder by the time of Agreement.

All other details can be seen in the bidding document which is available in website **pmgsytendersjhr.gov.in** as per schedule mentioned above.

Chief Engineer
JSRRDA, Ranchi

PR 270700 (Rural Work Department) 22-23 (D)

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients, Ambrish Shah, S/o. Mr. Nanalal Shah, aged about 67 years and Rupa Shah, W/o. Mr.Ambrish Shah, aged about 65 years, both residing at 35, Langeveld Drive Freehold, NJ 07728 USA are the only absolute joint owners of the vacant residential site admeasuring 823 square meters (8855 square feet), comprised in Site No.378, bearing now new number 227/228/378, carved out of the land admeasuring 4 acres comprised in Survey No.171 of Sadahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk which forms part of the residential layout known as 'Jade Garden Annexe' developed on the lands measuring 108 acres 29 guntas comprised in Survey Nos.152, 153, 154, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 166, 167/1, 119, 120, 121, 122, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 170, 171, 172, 180, 181, 182, 183 and 184 of Sadahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk ("Schedule A Property"), having acquired the same from Mr. P. Satish Pai, represented by his constituted attorney, Mr. Vimal M. Menda and M/s.Raj Trust represented by its authorized signatory, Mr. Vimal M. Menda in terms of the Sale Deed dated 25/06/1998 registered as Document No.593/1998-99 in Book I, Volume 1751 at pages 01 to 07 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Devanahalli. The said Site No. 378 has been morefully described in the Schedule provided hereinbelow and hereinafter referred to as the "Schedule B Property".

My clients have represented that the original of the said Sale Deed dated 25/06/1998 registered as Document No. 593/1998-99 in Book I, Volume 1751 at pages 01 to 07 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Devanahalli in respect of the Schedule B Property is lost/ misplaced and despite best efforts, the same has not been traced till date. Public is hereby cautioned not to deal as regards the Schedule B Property and any transactions concerning the Schedule B Property without the consent (in writing) of my clients shall be invalid and not binding on them. Finder of the lost original sale deed mentioned above is requested to promptly return the same to the undersigned.

SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted lands measuring 108 acres 29 guntas comprised in Survey Nos. 152, 153, 154, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 166, 167/1, 119, 120, 121, 122, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 170, 171, 172, 180, 181, 182, 183 and 184 of Sadahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore which is bounded as follows:-

East by: Land in Survey Nos. 117, 118, 173, 177 and a portion of Survey No. 116;

West by: Land in Survey Nos. 124, 151, 150 and 155;

North by: Land in Survey Nos. 168, 169, 188 and 189; and

South by: Land in Survey No. 123.

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the vacant residential site admeasuring 823 square meters (8855 square feet), comprised in Site No. 378, bearing now new number 227 / 228 / 378, carved out of the land admeasuring 4 acres comprised in Survey No. 171 of Sadahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk which forms part of the residential layout known as 'Jade Garden Annexe' developed on the Schedule 'A' Property and bounded as follows:

East by: Internal Road, and admeasuring on the side 20.00 meters

West by: Internal Road, and admeasuring on the side 23.20 meters

North by: Site No. 379, and admeasuring on the side 51.00 meters

South by: Site No. 377, and admeasuring on the side 31.30 meters.

Purnima D.N., Advocate, No. 48, 2nd Floor, 'Ishita', 2nd Main Road, Vyalikaval, Bangalore 560 003. Ph: 080-23361120. Email: purnimadn@outlook.com

Bangalore **Dt: 3-6-2022**

Man caught selling ivory carvings and python pelts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The K.R. Puram police caught a man trying to sell 13 African carvings and two python pelts measuring 16 feet. A team of police, posing as clients, went to the house in Indiranagar and caught him red-handed. The accused, a native of Kodagu, claimed he bought it from Africa 30 years ago and has gift certificates. However, he did not have any documents to prove his claim, the police said.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Directors, Employees of this newspaper/ company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

FROM PAGE ONE

Row erupts as six hijab-clad students are suspended

They stated that the college was allowing some hijab-wearing girls into the classrooms and came out of the classes as a mark of protest. At the same time, another group of students came out protesting against the suspension of six girls for wearing hijab in classrooms and demanded that their suspension be revoked.

Students wearing saffron shawls at Government First Grade College at Uppinangady in Dakshina Kannada on Thursday.

Sanjeeva Matandoor, chairman of the College Development Committee and also Puttur MLA, told *The Hindu* that the college had introduced a dress code long ago. A majority of the about 40 Muslim girls in the college remove the hijab in the ladies' room and later attend classes in accordance with the order of the High Court of Karnataka. As six girls were not ready to follow the dress code, the college suspended them three days ago, he said. The saffron shawl wearing students maintained that even after the suspension some had turned up for classes wearing the hijab and some others had started wearing the headscarf after seeing them. A Special Officer at the office of the Joint Director of Collegiate Education, Mangaluru Region, said the office had sought a report from the college on the developments, confirming that the college had suspended six girls.

When the controversy over the hijab was at its peak before the final verdict of the High Court, a row had hit the same college which had witnessed protests by students.

Meanwhile, in his complaint to the Uppinangady police, the journalist, Ajithkumar K, said the group of students forced him to delete the video recordings, which included the statement of the college principal, from his mobile phone after heckling and confining him in a college room. A group of about 25 students also questioned him for entering the college and sought to know whether he had obtained permission for it, he said.

Acting on his complaint, the police registered a case against 25 students of the college who are yet to be identified. The Dakshina Kannada Union of Working Journalists has condemned the incident.

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Making solid-state batteries last longer

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In what is being termed a breakthrough, researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) and their collaborators have discovered how next-generation solid-state batteries fail and devised a novel strategy to make these batteries last longer and charge faster.

Solid-state batteries are poised to replace the lithium-ion batteries found in almost every portable electronic device. But on repeated or excessive use, they develop thin filaments called 'dendrites' which can short-circuit the batteries and render them useless.

In a new study published in Nature Materials, the researchers have identified the root cause of this dendrite formation - the appearance of microscopic voids in one of the electrodes early on. They also show that adding a thin layer of certain metals to the electrolyte surface significantly delays dendrite formation, extending the battery's life and enabling it to be charged faster, an IISc release explained.

Vikalp Raj, PhD student of Naga Phani Aetukuri, Assistant Professor in SSCU and corresponding author of the study, artificially induced dendrite formation by repeatedly charging hundreds of battery cells, slicing out thin sections of the lithium-electrolyte interface, and peering at them under a scanning electron microscope. "When they looked closely at these sections, the team realised that something was happening long before the dendrites formed - microscopic voids were developing in the lithium anode during discharge," said the release.

The researchers introduced an ultrathin layer of a refractory metal between the lithium anode and solid electrolyte, which shields the solid electrolyte from the stress and redistributes the current to an extent.

Nandu's
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Available Fresh Always in Our Stores

Exhibition of tiger photographs

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

An exhibition of wildlife photographs by 14-year-old Amoghavarsha Patlapati is currently on at Chitrakala Parishath. The exhibition, which captures the tiger in its myriad moods, continues till June 5. The exhibition titled Mowgli's Tales is open from 10.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.

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KMF celebrates World Milk Day

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) on Wednesday celebrated World Milk Day with railway porters, housekeeping staff, and railway officials of the city Central railway station by providing information about the importance of milk to mankind as well as its benefits of consuming Nandini milk and milk products.

Managing Director B.C. Sathish flagged off the inaugural train which was branded with an advertisement display of Nandini milk and milk products. He also thanked railway authorities for giving the KMF an opportunity to celebrate World Milk Day.

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Congress to take out padayatras to mobilise youth, Dalits, OBCs

State-level war room will be set up within 20 days, says Surjewala

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) on Thursday commenced its two-day Nava Sankalpa Shibira. KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar told all leaders to participate in the padayatra to be launched in all districts from August 9 to 15 to expose the State government's failures and mobilise the youth and all sections of the people, including Dalits and OBCs, to ensure the party's victory in the State Assembly elections in 2023.

Addressing party leaders, including MLAs, MLC, MPs, former MPs, and party's office-bearers here, Mr. Shivakumar asked them to set aside their personal agenda and work collectively for the party's victory in the 2023 Assembly and 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Delegates at the Nava Sankalpa Shibira organised by the KPCC at a resort on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Thursday; (right) KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during a meeting on the sidelines of the party conclave. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Manifestoes for constituencies

He underlined the necessity of drafting separate manifestoes for each constituency and district. Separate programmes for coastal, Malnad, Bengaluru and Kalyan Karnataka regions would be formulated for bringing the party to power in the State. Meetings should be conducted at panchayat levels too to identify problems and local leaders who are aligned to the party's principles to be accommodated in the party, he said.

On enrolment of new members, Mr. Shivakumar said 78 lakh members have been enrolled and 42% of them are below the age of 35. Another 42% of them are women.

A membership drive will be continued and booth-level committees will be formed soon, he told leaders.

The ruling BJP governments in the State and at the Centre have offered many issues for the Congress to take before the people. "We have to fight the BJP government on issues such as inflation, unemployment, economic slowdown, corruption, and agrarian problems. The internal affairs of the party are to be discussed in party fora or brought to my notice," Mr. Shivakumar told party leaders who had been aspiring for tickets in Legislative Council and Rajya Sabha elections.

The party has already formed six committees on various issues. The KPCC chief asked leaders to provide suggestions in writing to committee members. More responsibilities are to be given for party vice-presidents, and general secretaries in the next 15-20 days, he said.

Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah said it was not difficult for the party to win the elections if it remained united in the coming zilla, taluk, BBMP and Assembly elections. "We should not win just to secure power. We should secure power to ensure the safety and welfare of all sections of people," Mr. Siddaramaiah said. The party has formed six committees and these should explain the party's stance on various issues, he said.

"People belonging to minorities, Dalits and other backward classes are living in fear owing to attacks on churches and mosques and because of caste atrocities. School textbooks are revised unnecessarily to include the RSS agenda," he said and called upon the party leaders and workers to fight against the BJP's policies.

AICC General Secretary in charge of the State Congress Randeep Singh Surjewala, said a State-level war room was to be set up in the next 20 days. "After the Nav Sankalp Shivir, the party will will emerge with great vigour," he said.

RS polls: JD(S) in touch with Kharge for withdrawal of Cong. candidate from fray

Today is the last day to withdraw nominations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Senior leaders in Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) are learnt to be communicating with each other to clear the confusion that has emerged over fielding of candidates for the fourth seat in the Rajya Sabha. While both parties are flagging the secular tag to bring pressure on the other to get their candidates withdraw from the fray, JD(S) leaders are learnt to be in touch with Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha M. Mallikarjun Kharge, seeking the withdrawal of the Congress candidate.

JD(S) sources said that their leader and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda has been in touch with Mr. Kharge over the issue, and that they were hopeful that the Congress candidate would withdraw in favour of the JD(S) candidate. The communication between the leaders was also confirmed by sources in the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee. Friday is the last day for withdrawing of nominations.

M. Mallikarjun Kharge

While the BJP and Congress are set to win two and one seats respectively in the elections slated to be held on June 10, the election to fourth seat has turned out to be interesting with Lahar Singh Siroya (BJP), Mansoor Ali Khan (Congress) and Kupendra Reddy (JD-S) filing nominations. Though the current line up gives an edge to the BJP, the situation could change if one of the Opposition candidates withdraws in favour of the other. Citing secular credentials, both Congress and JD(S) are insisting that the other candidate withdraw to prevent the BJP from taking away the third seat too. The JD(S) has stated that it will not withdraw its candidate.

Congress sources confirmed that efforts are on to find a solution, and that the JD(S) leaders were communicating with the AICC leaders through Mr. Kharge. Sources also said that JD(S) candidate Kupendra Reddy has also spoken to Mr. Kharge on the matter, and that a final decision on whether to withdraw the candidate or not will be taken by national leaders. "Though the idea of fielding the second candidate came from Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah, it was the party's decision to field one. If the party, considering various political calculations, decides to withdraw its candidate, it will be the party decision too," sources explained.

The former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, who has gone to Singapore for a medical check up, is also expected to return to India on Friday. "We are also not sure about the strategy he will adopt in this issue," party sources said.

HC notice to govt. on extending tenure of KSOU Vice-Chancellor

Vidyashankar's tenure has been extended by a year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has ordered issue of notice to the State government on a petition questioning the extension of one year in the post granted to S. Vidyashankar, Vice-Chancellor of Mysuru-based Karnataka State Open University (KSOU).

Justice S. Sunil Dutt Yadav passed the order on a petition filed by K. Mahadev, 77, a member of the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Board of the Mysore University and former General Secretary of Rajya Vokkaligara Sangha (RVS).

The court also ordered issue of notice to Mr. Vidyashankar, whose tenure has been extended for one year from May 30, 2022.

It has been alleged in the petition that Mr. Vidyashankar, who was a professor in Mechanical Engineering in the Bangalore Institute of Technology run by the RVS, was appointed as V-C in 2019 despite him facing charges of malpractices while serving in BIT.

Alleging that Mr. Vidyashankar was involved in several corrupt and illegal practices in the administration of the KSOU in the past three years, it has been pointed out in the petition that both the Chancellor and the State government have failed to consider the alleged illegalities despite several representations submitted by the petitioner and other prominent persons in this regard.

The petitioner has also contended that the provisions of the law for granting a one-year extension for V-Cs has been exercised without application of mind.

Bicycle rallies today at seven places in State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

On the occasion of the World Bicycle Day, celebrated on June 3, the Department of Youth Services and Sports in association with Nehru Yuva Kendra will hold bicycle rallies in seven historical places in Karnataka in a bid to promote fitness and sustainable development.

Minister for Youth Services and Sports K.C. Narayana Gowda told reporters here that prominent leaders would flag off the rally in front of the Vidhana Soudha on Friday.

To mark Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an initiative of the Centre to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of Independence, he said a rally has been organized in 75 places in the country. In Karnataka, he said the rallies would be held at Hampi, Belur, Rani Abbakka Kote, Gol Gumbaz, Mysuru Palace, and Madikeri Fort. The Minister said CEOs of German companies and over 200 cyclists would take part in the rally in Bengaluru.

State will go extra mile to support startups: CM

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai with Claude Smadja, president of Smadja & Smadja, and B.V. Naidu, chairman, KDEM, in Bengaluru on Thursday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has pledged its support for startups and the state is not worried about competition, according to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

"The Karnataka government will go [the extra] mile in supporting startups. We are not worried about the competition. It keeps us going and growing. We convert the competition into acceleration," he said on Thursday at the India Global Innovation Connect, a global conference on startups

The conference is organised by Smadja & Smadja, a Switzerland-based strategic advisory firm, in partnership with Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), Catamaran Ventures, and Tata Digital. Karnataka was the first State to introduce a startup policy, said Mr. Bommai. The seeds of the startup revolution were sown by the Maharaja of Mysore who supported industrialisation, banking and innovation much before the country attained independence. Bengaluru currently hosts 400 of the Fortune 500 companies and no other country has as many such companies, he said.

Claude Smadja, president, Smadja & Smadja, said, "India has always been a land of great entrepreneurial promise. As the 4th Industrial evolution has begun, it is pertinent to acknowledge that India will play the role of a catalyst especially with its ability to innovate solutions for itself and the world." India now has the world's third-largest startup ecosystem and Bengaluru's emergence as the new Silicon Valley of the world would lead to a greater, safer and stronger tomorrow, Mr. Smadja acknowledged.

Over 100 speakers from India, Singapore, Israel, Switzerland, the U.S., Japan, Korea and Germany are participating in the two-day event.

Ensure timely supply of farm inputs: Bommai

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday instructed the officials to ensure that there is no shortage of sowing seeds and fertilisers for the current kharif sowing season.

The CM chaired a high level meeting to review the implementation of budget programmes in the agriculture sector and said 1.26 lakh tonnes of DAP was available in the State as on May 31. In all about 7.64 lakh tonnes of fertilizers were available. "The officials should oversee the supply and stocks and take all precautionary measures against creation of artificial scarcity," Mr Bommai ordered.

Similarly about 7.81 lakh quintals of sowing seeds were available, which was more than the requirement. But stringent precautionary measures need to be taken to curb the menace of spurious sowing seeds. Action should be taken to avoid any lapses in this regard. Stringent measures should be taken against suppliers of spurious seeds, Mr. Bommai instructed.

The State has set a sowing target of 114.54 lakh hectares for the kharif season. The CM wanted at least 1 lakh hectares of dry and marsh lands to be made cultivable this year.

With the land already allocated for setting up modern cocoon markets in Kalaburagi and Haveri, Mr. Bommai instructed officials to prepare the Detailed Project Report (DPR) within a month. He asked them to submit the proposal for upgrading the cocoon market in the Sidlaghatta.

The meeting discussed setting up of cold storages at Devanahalli, Maddur and Ranebennur.

The State has set a sowing target of 114.54 lakh hectares for the kharif season. • FILE PHOTO

Center launched

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Pure Storage, a global data storage company, launched its India R&D Center here on Thursday. It was inaugurated by C.N.Ashwath Naryan, Minister for IT&BT.

He said data storage technologies will be the key to robust and sustainable IT infrastructure. The pandemic catalyzed digital transformation, he added.

IN BRIEF

Online training

BENGALURU

A three-day online training programme on Agricultural Marketing Information Systems organised by Staff Training Institute, Directorate of Extension, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, in association with MANAGE, Hyderabad, will be held from June 14. Those interested may register through www.manage.gov.in by June 11.

(Public Works Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Madhugiri
No:EE/PWD/Dvn/AE-2/Tender/2022-23 Dated: 31.05.2022
Invitation For Short term Tender
Tender ref no: 04/2022-23

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, PWD Division,Madhugiri,invites tenders from eligible Tenderers,for the works .Total 01 Work (Sira Taluk), Approx. amount for the work is Rs 100.00 Lakhs.Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Govt. of Karnataka Viz.http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.Tenders must be submitted through e-procurement portal on or before **20.06.2022** (up to 4.00 pm).Technical bids will be opened on **21.06.2022** after 4.15 PM, Financial bid will be opened **24.06.2022** after 4.00 PM. Further any other information can be seen from the e-procurement portal or can be had from the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Madhugiri

DIPR/TUM/179/MCA/2022-23

**COMMISSIONER,
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURIES**
5th & 6th Floor, KPCL Green Building, Palace Road, Bengaluru-560001. Ph: 080-22028210, Fax: 080-22028209
No. COT/PROC/37/2021-22 Date: 02.06.2022
RFP for Procurement of Desktop Computers for Treasury Offices

Department of Treasuries invites tender for **"Procurement of Desktop Computers for Treasury Offices".**
Tender details are available at the e-Procurement platform & tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/DD-C.P/729/MCA/2022-23

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NO.KIMS/KOPPAL/TENDER/CT-SCAN/33/2022-23
Date: 01.06.2022

TENDER-NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited for Providing CT Scan Reporting Service to Teaching Hospital KIMS Koppal from eligible tenderers for the period of 03 years in a two bid system through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in
1) Tender documents may be download from the e-procurement portal from 30/06/2022 from 5.30 PM. 2) Tender must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 18/06/2022 @5.30PM. 3) Technical Bids will be opened on 20/06/2022 @11.30AM. 4) Online reporting Services Approximate Value for one year Rs. 15.00 Lakhs per year. 5) EMD- Rs. 37,500/-
,Further information may be obtained from the above office during office hours & also from E-Procurement Website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in and this office web-site www.kimskoppal.kar.nic.in

Sd/-Director, KIMS, Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/124/MCA/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
BIDAR DISTRICT, BIDAR-585401**
Telephone No: 08482-229332, Fax No: 08482-225262 E-Mail: itstaff_dudc_bidar@yahoo.com
No: DUDC/NAG-4/Tender/CR-31/2022-23 Dated: 01-06-2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of work : Improvement of Roads, drains & other infrastructure in Aurad TP under Amrut Nagarothana Phase-4 **DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT132205,** 2) Estimated cost: As per e-portal, 3) Eligibility of Agency / Consultant : As per e-portal, 4) EMD amount: As per e-portal, 5) Pre bid meeting date : **01-07-2022 at 11.00 AM,** 6) Last date for submission of tender : **05-07-2022 upto 05.00 PM,** 7) Technical bid opening : **06-07-2022 at 05.30 PM,** 8) Address for communication: Executive Engineer DUDC Bidar, DC Office Bidar, Pin code 585401, Email : itstaff_dudc_bidar@yahoo.com 08482-229332, 9) Website: WWW.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

**Sd/- Executive Engineer
DUDC Bidar**

DIPR/Bidar/84/MC&A/2022-23

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE

S JAYALAKSHMI
PRT Hindi (Retd.),
Kendriya Vidyalaya, Madurai
has reached the lotus feet of the great Master on 1st June 2022
Deeply Mourned by :
Lakshminarayanan, Meenakshi, Aditya, Aravind, Anand, Sudha, Ajay, Balaji, Vidya, Shankar, Vishal & Vaishali
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DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

THIRD ANNIVERSARY

K.P.SAROJINI
Indian Legal Service
Former Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law Govt of India & Former Member FERA Board
21.12.1928 - 03.06.2019
"Appachi you are deeply missed"
Fondly Remembered by
Kaushalya Padmanabhan
Palmer and Family

DEATH

SAD DEMISE

Mrs.Sathyabhama Mahadevan(67)
W/o.T.N.Mahadevan
D/o.Late Prof R.R.Iyer
Passed away on
May 31, 2022 @
her Residence in K.K.Nagar, Ch-78.
Deeply mourned by
Sons: Narayan & Ramachandran
Family & Friends

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

SEVENTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

C.N. HARI
(Managing Director)
31.05.66 03.06.2005
"Missing you every single moment Bless and guide us to continue with your goals & values"
Fondly Remembered by:
Wife, Son, Relatives, Friends & Staff of BESMAK COMPONENTS PVT.LTD., Chennai.

'A.P. importing 31 lakh tonnes of coal'

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

P. Ramachandra Reddy

Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy on Thursday said the government was importing 31 lakh tonnes of coal as per the Coal Ministry's norm that the States should procure at least 10% of their requirement from overseas.

The Ministries of Power, Coal and Railways had set the norm after the coal crisis began crippling generation at the thermal power plants in October 2021, to supplement the stocks available domestically.

Accordingly, the process of importing coal had been set in motion, he said at a review meeting at the Secretariat on Thursday, while observing that coal shortage was not limited to Andhra Pradesh alone.

The Minister said the thermal power plants were having coal stocks sufficient for just two to three days against the stipulated 21 days, as Coal India Limited (CIL) was unable to meet the demand. The States were thus forced to import coal from foreign countries.

Nevertheless, there would be no problem in meeting the demand for power till the end of September, after which it was expected to rise due to a spurt in agricultural activity in the kharif season.

KCR bats for qualitative change

Telangana CM addresses people on the State Formation Day

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Telangana CM KCR meets boxing champion Nikhat Zareen on the occasion of Telangana Formation Day in Hyderabad. • PTI

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has reiterated the need for a qualitative change, a progressive agenda, which can steer the country out of its problems.

The country, he said, is in a dangerous situation wherein it is beset with politics of hate. There is no discussion or debate in the country other than "religious madness" and people's needs took a back stage. "It is not important who will come to power at the Centre every five years. It is not about one front replacing another at the Centre. There should be a meaningful and practical change in the lives of people for which there should be a qualitative change," he said addressing the gathering at the State Formation Day celebrations here on Thursday.

The Chief Minister said it was dangerous to gain political advantage out of communal clashes as the unity of the country would suffer if destructive elements were allowed to have their way. Such a situation would prevent international investments and would prove detrimental to NRIs. People in the country needed employment, projects, power and water and there was need for progressive and development path if the country wanted to be on a progressive path. "For this, new path of socio-economic and political agenda should be probed," he said.

The Chief Minister reviewed a parade on the occasion and gave away cheques for ₹2 crore each to Nikhat Zareen who won gold medal at the IBA Women's world boxing championship and Esha Singh who won three gold medals in the recent International Shooting Sport Federation junior world cup in Suhl of Germany.

'Lift economic sanctions imposed against States'

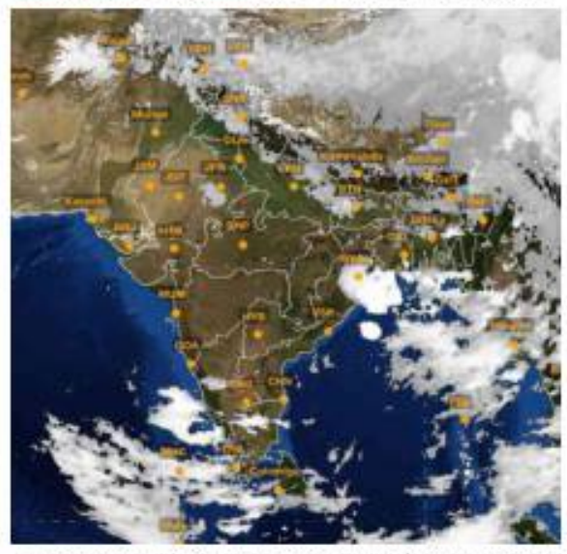
HYDERABAD

Accusing the Central government of "discriminating" against progressive States like Telangana, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has demanded that the Centre immediately lift the economic sanctions imposed on the States and stop further violation of the rights enshrined to them in the Constitution of India.

"It is a known fact that the Centre is squandering millions of crores of rupees due to the States," he alleged.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Bihar, Jharkhand, coastal Andhra Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.4	33.4	26.2	Kozhikode	–	33.0	25.2
Ahmedabad	–	43.2	27.0	Kurnool	–	39.7	28.0
Aizawl	26	26.1	20.7	Lucknow	–	42.1	28.0
Allahabad	–	44.3	27.4	Madurai	–	38.7	25.9
Bengaluru	–	31.0	22.0	Mangaluru	2.2	31.1	23.4
Bhopal	–	42.8	29.4	Mumbai	–	34.3	29.4
Bhubaneswar	–	37.2	28.0	Mysuru	–	32.6	21.4
Chandigarh	–	43.7	26.4	New Delhi	–	42.0	26.6
Chennai	–	40.1	30.0	Patna	–	39.4	27.0
Coimbatore	–	34.5	23.5	Port Blair	–	31.5	25.7
Dehradun	–	41.1	20.7	Puducherry	–	38.2	26.8
Gangtok	11.2	21.0	16.6	Pune	–	36.0	24.7
Goa	–	33.8	26.7	Raipur	–	44.0	29.3
Guwahati	–	34.6	26.0	Ranchi	5	38.0	24.0
Hubballi	–	34.0	22.0	Shillong	57	25.8	17.3
Hyderabad	–	40.0	28.0	Shimla	–	32.0	21.5
Imphal	39	28.2	20.0	Srinagar	–	25.7	11.6
Jaipur	–	42.8	30.0	Thiruvananthapuram	26	32.2	23.8
Kochi	6	30.4	25.0	Tiruchi	–	38.3	27.0
Kohima	5	25.0	16.7	Vijayawada	–	44.8	31.6
Kolkata	–	35.7	28.1	Visakhapatnam	–	33.6	29.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO2	NO2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.66	.47	.31	..61	..73	
Bengaluru	.27	.71	.16	..67	..92	
Chennai	.12	.31	.44	..87	..64	
Delhi	...3	.87	.45	.334	.239	
Hyderabad	...5	.27	.61	.119	.126	
Kolkata	...5	.96	.23	..50	..59	
Lucknow	...5	.67	.79	.221	.179	
Mumbai	...8	...4	.20	.149	.304	
Pune	116	.27	114	.144	..94	
Visakhapatnam	.18	.28	...9	..66	.110	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Buxar, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 320 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Gangtok, Sikkim recorded a healthy AQI score of 23

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

IN BRIEF

Jagan seeks funds to bridge revenue gap

VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi and submitted a memorandum containing issues to be sorted out by the Union government, which mainly include bridging of revenue deficit for 2014-15 amounting to ₹32,625 crore and approval of revised cost of Polavaram project. His interaction with Mr. Modi lasted about 45 minutes.

Pinarayi accuses Centre of creating communal discord

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

CM Pinarayi Vijayan interacting with Ministers at the first anniversary celebrations of the LDF government. • S. MAHINSHA

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government has stood firmly as an antithesis to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Centre which he accused of violating Constitutional values.

Inaugurating the valedictory function of the first anniversary of the LDF government here on Thursday, Mr. Vijayan said the State has taken a less-charted path to ensure equitable and holistic development. Accusing the Centre of intensifying globalisation through policies that have been thrust upon States, he claimed that the LDF government has succeeded in presenting a people's alternative to such tendencies.

He accused the Centre of attempting to divide the country on communal lines and thereby trigger unrest among the common populace. Reiterating the government's opposition towards the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act, he alleged that a number of surveys have been initiated in various parts of the country to spur discords.

'Railways gave no nod for SIA study in K-Rail'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The Railway Board on Thursday informed the Kerala High Court that sufficient details of the technical feasibility of SilverLine, the proposed semi-high-speed railway project, are not available in the detailed project report (DPR) submitted by the Kerala Railway Development Corporation Limited (K-Rail).

The board also submitted that Railways had not approved the social impact assessment (SIA) study being conducted by the State. The submissions were made when petitions against the laying of survey stones for the SIA came up for hearing before Justice Devan Ramachandran. It was submitted that Railways had not concurred with or requested the State government to lay survey stones or markers during the course of the survey for the project.

In a statement filed by Assistant Solicitor General S. Manu, the board said the project had not yet been sanctioned. No financial approval had been granted to the project as per the guidelines of the Union Ministry of Finance. In fact, consideration of the project would depend on the techno-economic viability of the project.

HC extends interim order against arrest of Vijay Babu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Thursday extended till June 7 its interim directive not to arrest actor-producer Vijay Babu in a rape case filed by an actor.

Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas, while passing the order, clarified that the actor should cooperate with the investigation and should not under any circumstances attempt to influence the witnesses or contact, communicate or interact with the complainant. He shall not interact through or with any social or other media, the court ordered

When an anticipatory bail petition filed by Vijay Babu was taken up for hearing, the prosecution told the court that the petitioner had come back and appeared before the investigating officer on June 1. The interrogation was being carried out and he was granted an opportunity to respond to the complaint filed by the victim.

As the prosecutor submitted that further time was required to get more details regarding the case, the court posted the case on June 7 and ordered that "the interim order not to arrest the petitioner shall continue till the next posting date".

Counsel for Vijay Babu submitted that he is cooperating with the investigation.

Meanwhile, the Kochi City police subjected Vijay Babu to intense grilling lasting several hours for the second consecutive day on Thursday. He had been interrogated for nearly nine hours on Wednesday shortly after his return from Dubai.

Vijay Babu was booked for rape on a petition filed by the survivor on April 22.

The show goes on

Tough task: A circus artist performing in the Great Bombay Circus show in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, on Thursday. The 100-year-old company is struggling to keep up the tradition due to tough contest from the digital entertainment. • R. ASHOK

Stalin meets Governor, seeks assent to 21 pending Bills

State affairs discussed in cordial meeting, says Raj Bhavan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin meeting Governor R.N. Ravi on Thursday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

With as many as 21 Bills adopted by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly pending in the Raj Bhavan, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday called on Governor R.N. Ravi and urged him to grant assent to the legislation so as "to uphold the spirt of the Constitution and the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu."

The Chief Minister, accompanied by his Cabinet colleagues Minister for Water Resources Duraimurugan, Minister for Higher Education K. Ponmudy and Minister for Industries Thangam Thennarasu, met the Governor at the Raj Bhavan.

An official release said Mr. Stalin urged the Governor to grant assent to the pending Bills. Releasing a photo of the meeting, the Raj Bhavan said, "In a cordial meeting, State affairs were discussed."

The government said that among the pending Bills is the legislation to replace the Governor as Chancellor of State-run universities with the Chief Minister.The legislation seeks to empower the State government to appoint Vice-Chancellors to its universities instead of the current procedure, where the Governor appoints the Vice-Chancellor from a shortlist of three names submitted to him by a three-member search committee.

The Assembly had adopted separate Bills to amend the Acts governing different fields of university education to empower the State government appoint Vice-Chancellors for universities.

NGT slaps ₹52 cr. penalty on Adani power plant in Udupi

'Environmental laws have been violated in coastal Karnataka'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) imposed penalty of ₹52 crore on Udupi Power Corporation Ltd. (UPCL), part of Adani Power, for violating environmental laws and polluting its surroundings at Nandikur near Padubidri in Udupi district, Karnataka.

On May 31, Judicial Member K. Ramakrishnan and expert members Satyagopal Korlapati and Vijay Kulkarni of NGT's southern Bench in Chennai said the environmental compensation was being levied on the 'Polluter Pays' principle.

The ruling was delivered on a batch of original applications and appeals filed by Janajagruti Samithi, Nandikur and others against the setting up of the 600 x 2 MW imported coal-based thermal power plant at Yellur-Nandikur villages.

Shifting of power plant

Initially, Nagarjuna Fertiliser and Chemical Ltd. was permitted to establish a 2 million tonne per annum steel plant with a 1,000 MW captive power generation plant in Mangaluru taluk by the Karnataka government on November 15, 1995. Subsequently, KIADB permitted shifting of the power plant to Yellur, Santhur, Padebettu and Thenka villages of Udupi taluk. The project was not location specific and the environment clearances were not in order.

The southern Bench said 50% of the compensation should be utilised for improving environmental infrastructure, including water supply, sewage, STP, solid waste management, healthcare and skill development, by Central Pollution and Karnataka State Pollution Control Boards in consultation with the Udupi Deputy Commissioner.

If UPCL does not pay the compensation to CPCB within three months, the board should recover it as per law.

Rubber farmers hit hard by high input costs

Fear of cost of production of rubber getting higher than purchase price in Kerala

HIRAN UNNIKRISHNAN
KOTTAYAM

Tough times: A labourer tapping rubber trees at a plantation at Kombukuthy near Koruthodu in Kerala. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

46-year-old Bobby Martin, a native of Pala, closed down his business and jumped into full-fledged rubber farming about two decades ago when the latex prices were skyrocketing. But with the input costs at current highs, the nine acre plantation that he inherited hardly serves his family.

And it isn't just the material prices that are rising. The shortage of labour and the resultant increase in wages have all conspired to stock a crisis.

"From acid to coconut shells, the costs have swelled across the board. The last couple of months were particularly severe when we began rain-guarding the trees ahead of the monsoons," he said. According to him, the price of tar bitumen, which was available at ₹1,000 last season, has increased by over over ₹400, while that of plastic surged to ₹180 from ₹120. The labour cost involved in rain- guarding too has risen by ₹5 per tree to become ₹20.

As the growers, especially those having small holdings, were struggling from unprecedented steepening of prices for all manner of inputs, the Rubber Board chipped in with a subsidy scheme for rain-guarding as well as spraying materials. The scheme stipulated a subsidy on materials for rain-guarding and spraying to the tune of ₹2,000 and ₹3,000 respectively per acre, to be distributed through the Rubber Production Societies.

If the price of rubber does not rise from the existing band of ₹165 to ₹180 per kilo, there are concerns about the cost of production outstripping the prices, said Francis Kochumala, president of the Marangoli RPS in Kottayam.

Analysts, meanwhile, are warning that the farmer's won't see input prices coming down any soon. Several factors will keep prices elevated for longer, including high gas prices and reduction in supply.

"The risk is much higher at these prices and I am not sure how long things will go on like this," Mr. Martin said.

Grim turn

The removal of its special status has seen the beginning of fresh challenges in Kashmir

Nine civilians have been killed in targeted killings by militants in the past 22 days in Kashmir, including a Kashmiri Pandit employee, a Hindu schoolteacher from Jammu and a bank manager from Rajasthan. This has triggered a wave of protests in the Valley from the minority communities. Protesting since May 12 when Rahul Bhat, a Pandit employee, was killed in his office, over 4,000 Pandit employees recruited under a special package are on the verge of another migration as in the 1990s. Their leaders say they are contemplating mass exodus and resignations unless relocated outside the Valley. The abominable terrorist violence and the predicament of the Pandits and Hindus denote a grim reversal of all the gains towards peace and reconciliation in the last decade or so. The Valley had welcomed a subtle and slow return of Kashmiri Pandits, a segment of those who left in the face of a surge in violence and targeted killings in the 1990s. Their return was encouraged by the comprehensive policy of then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who in 2008 worked on a strategy: a political outreach to stakeholders of Kashmir's political spectrum for creating a conducive atmosphere and, at the same time, extending permanent financial support to Pandits willing to return.

The Prime Minister's Package for Return and Rehabilitation of Kashmir migrants not only offered jobs to Pandit youths but also doled out an initial financial assistance of ₹7.5 lakh per family, which was later increased to ₹20-₹25 lakh – in three instalments for those who settled in the Valley. It is not a mere coincidence that a turn for the worse coincided with the Centre's new push to alter Kashmir's relations with India, starting with the termination of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and special constitutional status in 2019. On December 31, 2020, a Hindu goldsmith was killed; a series of targeted killings of members of the minorities, including Kashmiri Pandits, started from October 6, 2021 when Makhan Lal Bindroo who ran the famous Bindroo Medicate was killed in his shop in Srinagar. Guest workers in the Valley from other parts of the country have also been felled. Policies implemented by the Centre regarding land and government jobs are perceived in Jammu and Kashmir as disadvantageous to locals, increasing the sense of alienation that is being exploited by separatists and Pakistan-backed terrorists. The Centre must take measures to ensure the security of Hindus, and migrant workers in the Valley, at any cost as an immediate response. It must also think afresh its Kashmir policy and create space for political dialogue. It seems the dilution of Article 370 was not the end of the problem but the beginning of fresh challenges in Kashmir, which need careful handling rather than just muscular triumphalism.

A critical juncture

Distilling inflation's impact on GST revenues is vital before reforms are put on hold

On Tuesday, the Centre said it has released States' outstanding GST compensation dues of almost ₹87,000 crore. The move marks a shift in stance as just a month earlier, the Finance Ministry had signalled that States' dues worth over ₹78,000 crore, pending for the last four months of 2021-22, will be released 'as and when' adequate GST compensation cess collections accrue. By May 31, the Centre said there was about ₹25,000 crore in the GST compensation fund and forked out the balance from its own coffers to be adjusted from future GST cess levies on sin goods, such as cars. The stated intent for this changed strategy makes eminent sense – to help States manage their resources and ensure spending, particularly of the capital variety to pump-prime the economy, happens smoothly through 2022-23. States have been anxious about revenue inflows once the five-year GST compensation window expires this month. The gesture to remit dues without waiting for cess accruals will also help cool the temperature of the Centre-States' fiscal parleys, that flared up afresh after some tangential remarks from the apex court on the nature of the GST Council's recommendations.

For consumers, this could mean a further extension in the levy of GST compensation cess beyond March 2026 – by when borrowings made over the past two years to bridge shortfalls in cess collections, were to be repaid. The other important implication is that over April and May, the gap between revenues and the assured level promised to States under the GST compensation compact has narrowed to less than ₹5,000 crore a month, from over ₹19,600 crore averaged in the previous four months. The record GST collection of over ₹1.67 lakh crore in April helped, no doubt, and although May revenues have fallen 15.9% to ₹1.41 lakh crore, sustaining this two-month average could ease fiscal worries for both the Centre and the States. The Government, which had termed April revenues (for transactions in March) a reflection of a 'faster' recovery, suggested that the financial year end boosted those inflows, seeking to explain the dip in May. The elephant in the room remains ignored – high inflation, which the Government hinted could compel a pause in an impending rejig of the GST rate structure, has been a key factor for rising GST revenues (over ₹1.12 lakh crore for 11 months). Once that is acknowledged and the level of economic activity assessed minus inflation effects, the GST Council can take a more nuanced call on the next steps to reform the still-young tax system and sustain revenues. This must begin by assessing whether the GST rate restructuring should be deferred because of fears of higher inflation, or reoriented to lower inflation while broadening the tax net and easing compliance.

India-Pakistan ties and the mirror of 2019

There are sound reasons why New Delhi must shift course from the belligerence it once profited from

SUSHANT SINGH

An official delegation from Pakistan was in New Delhi on Monday to hold talks with its Indian counterparts under the aegis of the Indus Water Treaty. In March, the Indians had gone to Islamabad to attend the previous meeting. Starting from February, India has been sending through Pakistan consignments of wheat, via the World Food Programme, to the Taliban-run Afghanistan.

Evidently, channels of communication between the two governments are working and open hostility has subsided, if not vanished completely. In his speeches, Prime Minister Narendra Modi no longer targets Pakistan as an enemy country or invokes it to target politicians of Opposition parties, a regular feature till a few years ago. This is not because of a sudden change of heart or out of great love for Pakistan. The change has been driven by realist considerations that surfaced during the Ladakh border crisis on the Line of Actual Control with China in the summer of 2020.

China forced the hand

The border crisis in Ladakh raised the spectre of a collusive military threat between China and Pakistan. As various military leaders have since stated, such a challenge cannot be effectively dealt with by the military alone and would need all the instruments of the state – diplomatic, economic, informational, and military – to act in concert. To prevent such a situation, India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval opened backchannel talks with Pakistan, using the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as an interlocutor.

This was confirmed by the UAE's Ambassador to the United States, as the Indian and Pakistan armies agreed to a reiteration of the ceasefire on the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir in February 2021.

It was a U-turn for the Modi government, after the dilution of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019, and the number of ceasefire violations along the LoC had reached a record high in 2020. In line with Home Minister Amit Shah's statement in Parliament vowing to wrest back Pakistan-occupied Kashmir – and Aksai Chin from China – every other politician from the Bharatiya Janata Party politician was threatening Pakistan. By then, the Indian Army was boasting of its firepower on the LoC.

It thus came as a surprise that Mr. Doval had agreed in his backchannel talks with the Pakistan Army to undertake certain actions in Kashmir as part of a mutually agreed road map. Reports emanating from Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa made it clear that two actions by India were a precondition for any further steps by Pakistan: restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir; and an announcement of no demographic change in the Kashmir Valley.

As the backchannel talks dragged on, the Indian side expressed its political inability to initiate these actions. With Imran Khan (now former Prime Minister) refusing to move ahead, it created a stalemate. By then, limited disengagement had occurred with the Chinese forces in Ladakh, thus stabilising the situation along the LAC to some extent. India gave assurances to Pakistan when the threat of escalation with China became very high in late 2020 following the Indian Army's occupation of certain heights in the Kailash range in Ladakh. Pakistan had then not shown any inclination to mobilise its forces to the LoC, which would have created a nightmare scenario for the Indian security establishment. Even if there was no further progress in bilateral ties, the Indians were happy with this new status quo with Pakistan while the border crisis with China was alive. This bought them time to further consolidate the changes in Kashmir undertaken in August 2019.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Kashmir suffers

The delimitation of Assembly constituencies in Kashmir has been completed. The fresh making of an electoral map disadvantages Kashmiris, and new Assembly elections seem but a matter of time. That would bring closer the BJP's dream of installing a Hindu Chief Minister in India's only Muslim-majority region, an attempt made earlier after the sacking of Mehbooba Mufti as Chief Minister. If these efforts are successful, the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir could also be restored.

However, despite a harsh security-centric approach by the administration, violence in the region has gone up in the past year or so. All the resources of the Indian state have now been devoted towards a successful conduct of the Amarnath Yatra, with a record participation this year, even as the same administration bans Friday prayers at the iconic Jamia Masjid in Srinagar using the flimsiest of excuses. Congregational prayers were disallowed at the historic mosque last Friday after the sentencing of Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik. His sentencing also earned a strong statement of condemnation from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) that was rejected by India's Foreign Ministry. Things have changed drastically from February 2019, when the then External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj was invited as the "guest of honour" by the OIC.

Islamabad's rhetoric helps the Modi government make its case domestically that the crisis in Kashmir is solely of Pakistan's making. While Pakistan's use of violence by sending weapons and militants has been a major factor, exploiting it to overlook the political grievances of Kashmiris thwarts a lasting solution. The idea that Kashmiris have no agency of their own and are instruments in the hands of the Pakistan military defies both history and common sense.

No environment in Pakistan

The recent change of government in Pakistan, including Imran Khan's removal, is seen as a positive in New Delhi. The official Indian establishment has had close ties with both the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and the Pakistan Peoples Party that are now part of the government. There are Indian businessmen who have acted as interlocutors with the Sharif brothers on behalf of the Modi government. Mr. Modi had himself made a sudden stopover at the Sharif household in December 2015 to attend a family wedding, and subsequently allowed Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) officials to visit Pathankot airbase for terror attack investigation.

Officials on both sides argue that there are some low-hanging fruits which can be plucked the moment a political go-ahead is given. These include a deal on the Sir Creek dispute, an agreement for revival of bilateral trade, return of High Commissioners to the missions in Delhi and Islamabad, and build-up of diplomatic missions to their full strength. Demilitarisation of the Siachen glacier is still seen to be off the table as the Indian proposal is believed to be unacceptable to the Pakistan Army.

The environment in Pakistan is, however, not conducive for any such move. Imran Khan is garnering big crowds in his support and has put the Shehbaz Sharif government and Pakistan Army under pressure. With the economy in doldrums, there is little room for manoeuvre with the new government. Even an announcement of talks with India, without New Delhi conceding anything on Kashmir, will provide further ammunition to Imran Khan. The current moment, where New Delhi and Islamabad seem willing to move forward but are restrained by Pakistan's domestic politics, somewhat mirrors the lawyers' protest against General Musharraf in 2008 which derailed the Manmohan-Musharraf talks after they had nearly agreed on a road map.

New environment

A window of opportunity would possibly open in Pakistan after the next elections, which are scheduled next year but could be held earlier. By then, the Pakistan Army would have a new army chief, as Gen. Bajwa's three-year extension comes to an end in November. Gen. Bajwa's successor may look at things differently. By then, if Jammu and Kashmir has a new State government after elections and the border crisis with Beijing is resolved, the ground would have completely shifted in India. As Mr. Modi goes for another re-election in 2024 with little to show on the economy front, a totally different dynamics on Pakistan would be at play in India.

Following the Balakot airstrike (2019), Pakistan was at the forefront of Mr. Modi's election campaign in 2019. In a recent book chapter, Mr. Doval has written that Balakot "blew away the myth of Pakistan's nuclear blackmail". For the next strike on Pakistan, "domain and level will not be limiting factors", he wrote.

Mr. Doval does not mention it but last time, India lost a fighter aircraft, had its pilot in Pakistani captivity, shot down its own helicopter killing seven men, had another near-miss friendly fire accident over Rajasthan, and the two nuclear-armed countries threatened to shoot missiles at each other. That was in 2019. A reckless act in the future may have even more dire consequences. Unless that is what India desires, the Modi government must shift course from the belligerence it has displayed and profited from earlier in favour of proper diplomatic and political engagement with Pakistan.

Sushant Singh is Senior Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research

A strategist, a party at a crossroads, and a revival plan

While the Congress must act on its identified weaknesses, it must ponder adopting the strategist's brand of politics

SAMAS

It is thoroughly disappointing to many that after its recent conclave at Udaipur, Rajasthan, which was convened after much deliberation to pave the way for a new journey, the Indian National Congress has failed to come up with a political game changer that is capable of effecting a paradigm shift to its fight against the current regime.

The Congress party has come under fire from many which includes poll strategist Prashant Kishor. Most political commentators have articulated their criticism against party leader Rahul Gandhi, by connecting the outcome of the Udaipur conclave with his rejection, just before the meet, of a plan of action that Mr. Kishor had designed to take on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Battle in 2024

Of course, the Congress leadership, and Rahul Gandhi in particular, deserve all criticism for weakening the party, and in the process, strengthening the BJP significantly. The frustration of commentators – liberals in particular – is not ill-founded as their perception is that the Congress leadership has shown little sign of gearing up to take on the BJP and instil hope in the Congress party in the run-up to the Lok Sabha election in 2024. After all, the results of 2024 have the potential of accelerating the far reaching changes that are being wrought upon the country's political make-up.

What lies at the core

Yet, if Rahul Gandhi had indeed wielded his veto to reject Mr. Kishor's plan of action, he does not deserve condemnation, as there is substantive reason for this. Mr. Kishor's intention to unite the Opposition parties in taking on the Narendra Modi-led BJP might have been well-taken even if he (Mr. Kishor) was a catalyst in Mr. Modi's rise on the national scene. It must be reckoned that he, more than anyone in the Opposition, has been responsible for not just Mr. Modi's rise but also the brand of politics that represents Mr. Modi coming to the fore.

The reduction of politics to electoralism, and that too to arithmetic in a country of diverse ethnic groups and landscapes, is a key feature of Mr. Kishor's calculus. In the last few years, this reductionism has taken the form of an addiction to numbers.

We do not know the entire details of the plan of action that Mr. Kishor presented to the Congress. But a gist is available.

Let us look at the Congress's strike rate against the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections. For every 100 seats that the Congress had a straight fight with the BJP, it won only six in 2014 and only four in 2019. The bulk of its victories were in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Punjab, where it did not face the BJP. So, though the Congress remains a principal force to oppose the BJP, it is still not a winning force.

RANJEET KUMAR

Party's gradual decline

The decline of the Congress is not a temporary phenomenon. It was last returned to power with an absolute majority in 1984 (it had won 404 seats then). In decades thereafter, though it was in power for 15 years during this period, its biggest success was in the 2009 parliamentary elections (it won 206 seats then). The decline was, therefore, a continuation of its fall in fortunes since 1984.

The Congress remained a principal force despite declining electoral performance because it has retained a decent 30% vote share consistently. But, currently, that has fallen to 19% as against the 40% core vote share of the BJP. The Congress has to double its vote share to get a majority and to do that, it has to win over votes that are now held by the regional parties.

The dynamics that kept the Congress as a decisive political force for three decades despite its electoral decline would on the other hand help the BJP remain a decisive political force for long as it has a higher core vote share of 40%.

This malady faced by the Congress has been identified with fair accuracy by Mr. Kishor. It is time for the Congress to stop functioning as just a distinct political party. It has to transform itself as an umbrella – under which all political parties, big and small, have to be assembled. It has to remember that the Congress before Independence, the legacy of which it claims so zealously, was nothing short of that. It should cease fighting the regional parties in States where it has no chance of coming to power and ally with them with the sole aim of dislodging its principal adversary in Delhi. This would bring in immediate electoral dividends.

A common feature

There is no doubt that it is a long and difficult journey to defeat the BJP in the cultural and political arena. A new federal narrative has to be created at the top and there has to be continuous contact with people at the base. The Congress should design a plan of action in the cultural and political realms and execute it thoroughly. The problem with Mr. Kishor is that he does not stop at identifying the disease as an astute lab technician. Rather, he dons the role of doctor and seeks to decide the course of treatment.

If one examines the electoral strategy model rolled out by Mr Kishor not only to help the BJP but also regional forces such as the Nitish Kumar-led Janata Dal (United), the erstwhile Capt. Amarinder Singh-led Punjab Congress, the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress and the M.K. Stalin-led Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, there is a strikingly common feature – to focus on a single leader's popularity and to concentrate the power of the party and its narrative in one person at the helm.

A danger not cognisant to many lies in the point of the centralised power of political parties. While Mr. Modi tends to centralise the Indian state, government institutions and their style of functioning, Mr. Kishor is paving the way to achieve the same in respect of political parties and their style of functioning.

While this can bring transient electoral success, its simplistic mathematical nature as opposed to the more organic link between the party and the people is problematic and incapable of bringing substantial change in the fortunes of a political project. The other fallout is the consolidation of majoritarianism of particular castes and religions in Indian politics that does away with the consociationalism that is inherent in collective leadership and diversity.

To the extent that Mr. Kishor has identified the weaknesses of the Congress and its challenges, the party's leadership must accept and address them. But it is another matter if it should take Mr Kishor's lead in adopting the brand of politics that he has promoted in his role as a political consultant in the last decade. It may bring a sense of purpose to the Congress but it will be at the detriment of the alternative that the people desperately need and seek.

Samas is Editor for Arunchol.com, independent media. Translated by Venumani

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

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In distress

It is truly saddening to read about the Kashmiri Pandits deciding to move out of the Kashmir Valley. The sudden repeal of Article 370 and the opening up of property rights to outsiders may have been unacceptable to the local population, turning even the moderates sullen. The perception might have been of fear of a demographic influx of outsiders who would soon crowd out the locals. The disaffected find no recourse to dialogue, and all avenues of communication are closed. It is no surprise the resentment finds an expression in militancy. Perhaps, it suits the agenda of divisive forces to keep the hatred alive.

R. THOMAS PAUL,
Bengaluru

■ The Kashmiri Pandits have a reason that is genuine. For them, trust and assurance seem to be fading quickly. It is important that the Central government ensures that no Kashmiri is deprived of fundamental rights. Targeting minorities anywhere is an indictment of our society.

SHIJU THALIKUNJU,
Secunderabad

■ The Government has been making tall claims of peace, progress and development being prevalent in Jammu and Kashmir. But the killings reveal a dismal picture.. The Government should ensure that confidence-building measures are not diluted and start a dialogue with all stakeholders.

S.K. KHOSLA,
Chandigarh

Summons and remarks

There is already the perception that law enforcement agencies are being used by the ruling party to intimidate political opponents. Therefore, statements by members of the ruling party – for example, J.P. Nadda's statement, "Does a criminal ever say that he is dishonest?" – will only further strengthen that perception and perhaps even derail a well-intentioned investigative process.

A. VENKATASUBRAMANIAN
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Singer 'KK'

The Indian film industry is still reeling from the shock of the passing of Lata Mangeshkar. The passing of singer Krishnakumar Kunnath is another shock. KK imparted a different dimension to music. His adoring fans stare at an emptiness.

ANUSHKA JAISWAL,
Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh

Do we need a law to compensate those implicated in false cases?

PARLEY

A malicious and deliberate act on the part of an investigating officer should be viewed very seriously

In October 2021, Aryan Khan, son of actor Shah Rukh Khan, was arrested in Mumbai by the Narcotics Control Bureau in a drug racket case. Now, after many twists and turns in the case, on May 28, he and five others were given a clean chit by a special investigation team from Delhi. Besides highlighting the torment suffered by him and his family, Aryan Khan's case also threw the focus on the countless victims of malicious prosecution, many of whom are resourceless. In a conversation moderated by **Sonam Saigal**, Madan B. Lokur and Meeran Chadha Borwankar discuss whether those who have been implicated in false cases should be compensated. Among other things, they discuss reasons for wrongful and malicious prosecution, the role of investigating officers and agencies along with the judiciary, and whether India needs a new law to decide on the quantum of compensation. Edited excerpts:

Madan B. Lokur *is a retired Supreme Court judge*

Meeran Chadha Borwankar *is a retired Indian Police Service officer of the Maharashtra cadre*

Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

We are increasingly seeing a lot of innocent people being booked. Why do enforcement agencies end up arresting and even charging the wrong people?

Madan Lokur: I would like to draw a distinction between somebody who has been falsely implicated and somebody who has been implicated but is eventually acquitted, either because the evidence is deficient or because of some other reason. In the case of Aryan Khan, as it appears from the newspaper reports and some statements that have come out, there was actually no reason to arrest him and keep him in custody for almost a month. It is all right for the investigating officer to say, 'we are still investigating', but the investigation must have some basis. Otherwise, tomorrow they can pick up somebody and say, we think this person is a terrorist, we are investigating, and until we complete our investigation, let that person remain in jail. I have no doubt in my mind that Aryan Khan has been falsely implicated, and therefore, he must be compensated.

There are several reasons why a person should be compensated if there is false implication, if there has been physical discomfort of being in jail because the person may have been in jail for many years. You have to consider the fact that our justice delivery system is painfully slow. There are instances where persons have spent eight, 10 or more years under trial. Then there is the mental trauma that not only a person, but also their family and children undergo. There is social stigma. In a village, where people know one another, maybe not intimately but they know who's who, the family of the one who is falsely accused gets ostracised. It may not happen in a big city like Mumbai or Delhi. Children also suffer. Can you imagine a child who is going to school and the teacher or some other child says that this boy's father is a terrorist and he's in jail. It is bound to affect the child. It is also important to look at mental health, emotional health, not only of the person, but also of the family.

Meeran Borwankar: Any case of deliberate, intentional arrest or booking of an individual in a criminal case should be compensated. But I would also like to add, when an agency arrests a person, it's only for 24 hours, and then the person is produced before the court. So it is not the enforcement agencies alone, it's also the judicial mind which is applied within 24 hours. If the judicial officer feels or thinks that the investigating agency does not have enough evidence or it's going blatantly wrong, they should not hand over the custody either to the agency or to prison. A case in India ordinarily takes six to eight years to conclude. You have the financial, social and emotional burden of being involved in a crime, which in case you were falsely accused or maliciously prosecuted, you should be compensated for.

Having said that, would it be fair to say that a wrongful prosecution stems from a malicious probe that operates on a bias and prejudice?

MB: Maybe not always. I was once involved in the investigation of a case of murder, which later proved to be a case of suicide. So, sometimes there can be genuine mistakes. But a malicious and deliberate act on the part of an investigating officer should be viewed very seriously.

ML: It could be and it may not be. Nowadays, there are several instances of sedition. In a case of a harmless tweet, the prosecution books the person for a charge as serious as sedition – here it is clearly malicious. Another example is Section 66A (punishment for sending offensive messages through communication service, etc.) of the Information Technology Act that has been struck down by the Supreme Court (in 2015) as unconstitutional. But there are still a few thousand cases that have been filed even after that. How can the prosecution ever justify that? There is also a very heavy responsibility on the judiciary. The judiciary also has to be alive to the fact that it is just a simple tweet and nobody is trying to topple the government. Therefore, the judge must say, 'why accuse the person with sedition' and 'I don't agree with this.' Similarly, with Section 66A, the judge should ask, 'why have you filed a case under a provision that has been declared to be unconstitutional?' Both the prosecution and the judiciary have to be very, very careful about this. Because at the end of the day, if the prosecution is not able to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt, which is a standard of proof that is required, then one can come to the conclusion that the prosecution has a malicious intent.

We should legislate on this, so that there is no ad hocism. It is possible that a court in a small State may think that giving ₹5 lakh compensation to someone is a good idea, but a High Court in a bigger State may say, what is ₹5 lakh? So we need a standard which can be laid down by legislation.
JUSTICE MADAN LOKUR

The Law Commission in its report number 277, titled 'Wrongful Prosecution (Miscarriage of Justice): Legal Remedies', has recommended enactment of a specific legal provision for redressal of such cases, covering the substantive and procedural aspects. How do you think we can calculate compensation?

ML: I can't give an answer offhand. But there has to be some way of doing it. First, you have to accept the fact that compensation has to be given, then comes the calculation. There have been instances. In scientist Nambi Narayanan's case (he was acquitted 24 years after Kerala police arrested him in a fabricated spy case), the Supreme Court gave him ₹50 lakh as compensation (in 2018). The Delhi High Court on a couple of occasions has said the person needs to be compensated for having been kept in jail even though he's entitled to bail and all the papers are in order. So, there are a whole lot of factors which point unerringly to the fact that compensation must be given.

MB: Compensation is one extreme, which means we have come to a conclusion that it is a case of malicious prosecution. But we can also take steps in moderation; for example, more professional scrutiny by the senior officers of enforcement agencies. In Aryan Khan's case, a senior officer could have applied his mind and maybe advised the overenthusiastic officers on the professional lines of investigation. The second role is of the prosecutors, as they are neither with the police nor with the investigating agencies; they are independent officers of the court. So, when the investigating agency or police are saying that a person is involved, and want his custody, even the prosecutors can point out to the enforcement agencies that they are wrong; that their case is not strong, so they should not ask for custody. But sometimes, and I can say from experience, agencies and investigators get very troubled by the thought that if we do not show the arrest of a person who is a very influential person or child of an influential person, adverse reactions shall be drawn by the media and by citizens. Therefore, the agencies sometimes err on the side of arresting; the role of the prosecutor and judicial application of mind will help against an error of judgment in prosecuting a person.

As seen in the case of Nambi Narayanan, we know that constitutional courts can exercise their vast powers in awarding compensation but there is also a remedy of filing a civil suit by the victim or the family members. But that is time consuming. Do you think that India needs a new law to ensure disbursement of compensation?

ML: I think we should certainly legislate on this, so that there is no ad hocism. It is possible that one court in a small State may think that giving ₹5 lakh compensation to someone is a good idea, but a High Court in a bigger State may say, what is ₹5 lakh? It's nothing, we should give at least ₹10 lakh. So we need a standard which can be laid down by legislation for determining compensation. You have instances, in cases of death in a motor accident, where the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal says ₹5 lakh is good enough, but the High Court may say no, that is too little, it should be ₹7.5 lakh and the Supreme Court may say it should be ₹10 lakh. Similarly, in land acquisition cases, as seen earlier, the collector would give some amount, the High Court would double it, the Supreme Court would make it two and a half times or three times more. So, there are principles on the basis of which compensation can be determined and is being determined not only in motor accident cases, but also in land acquisition cases. I think in the long run it's a good idea if you have legislation on this aspect.

MB: Yes, I agree with Justice Lokur but I would like to add that Section 211 of the Indian Penal Code talks of a false charge of offence made with an intent to injure. It can lead to two years of imprisonment, or up to seven years. This section, I think, is valid for malicious prosecutions, but further legislation for compensation would be a welcome step.

Given that the fundamental rights of the person implicated in a false case are infringed upon and violated, do you think that the state should have some legal or statutory responsibility?

ML: Yes, it should. One of the consequences of not adhering to that responsibility is compensation. Or it could be punishment in some other form; there can be a departmental inquiry against an errant officer or he can be dismissed from service.

MB: I also feel if the judicial officer at the time of trial, if not earlier, comes to the conclusion that the prosecution's case is false, it can distinguish between a genuine error or a malicious one and the court can pass an order for compensation. The state must also take responsibility in case of wrongful confinement.

If the judicial officer feels or thinks that the investigating agency does not have enough evidence or it's going blatantly wrong, they should not hand over the custody either to the agency or to prison.

NOTEBOOK

Sport in the time of social media

The trust between players and scribes has deteriorated over time

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR

We live in times when news ripples first on Twitter, barks at us through television before piping down and finding validation through print. Sport at large and cricket specifically isn't immune to this trend and as events get distilled into hashtags, it is time for some frenetic words and endless speculation.

There was an era though when reflexive reportage wasn't the drill. Decades ago, cricketers would catch up with the travelling media, perhaps over a drink in the evening. The number of correspondents was few and insights would be shared. The odd Leg-Before-Wicket dismissal was hotly debated. And off-the-record conversations remained just that.

Those were pastoral times when freshly cut grass on the outfield, some dragonflies whispering in the air and the thud of a ball against a piece of willow had a sense of timelessness. Cricketers lived their sporting dreams, writers chronicled them and all seemed fine. Utopia, however, was bound to crack once the 24-hour news cycle rode on the twin pivots of digital avenues and television channels.

The need for content at the speed of light meant that adequate filters weren't at play and stories were manufactured. Once, during a hectic limited overs series between India and Australia, a television reporter asked Ricky Ponting whether the schedule was tight. The Aussie skipper answered in the affirmative. Next up was M.S. Dhoni and the same correspondent told the Indian captain: "Mahibhai, Ponting just complained about the schedule, how do you see this?" Dhoni offered some platitudes about international sport and how players have to adjust. Once the press conference concluded, the channel flashed the news: 'MS snubs Ponting!'

The inevitable result was that the trust between players and scribes was ruined. This collateral damage perpetuated itself in different ways over the years. And we are at a point in which cricketers, like other sporting icons, would rather talk directly to the audience through their social media handles. The scope for a nuanced question or an essential clarification has been lost. Instead, press conferences have banalities being spouted such as "control the controllables".

Announcements, be it retirements or captaincy resignations, are sprung on stunned writers. Dhoni retired from international cricket through a cryptic Instagram post at night and newsrooms lapsed into apoplexy. Did he do that? Did he really mean that? Oh hell, yes he did!

However, things were pleasantly different in the past. Rahul Dravid, known equally for his resolute batting and famous reticence, surprised many on a warm March night in Bengaluru. It was the summer of 2012 and citizens were busy ranting about traffic and the alleged heat in an otherwise salubrious city.

The phone rang. 'Private Number' flashed. It could only be 'The Wall' at the other end. A beverage was spilled, the phone grabbed, a quick hello muttered and a familiar voice spoke: "Hey Vijay, Rahul here, good time to talk?" And as a few yeahs were said, he continued: "Listen I'm doing a press conference at the Chinnaswamy Stadium this Friday, thought I will give you a head's up. Let this stay between us. I told a few others too that I'm announcing my retirement that day. But nothing in print for now. Thanks."

Being given two days' notice for a significant announcement that would trigger pathos and respect in the cricketing world was too much to stomach. Plus the secret had to be held tight while the mind thought about possible tributes and memories flashed that were specific to this fabulous batter. India's leading cricket writers were bound by the Code of Omerta. We knew 'Jammy', as Dravid is known in the inner circle, was leaving but the news had to stay under the radar till he made it official.

Those were different days. Now, we have one eye on the field and the other on Twitter and Instagram. You never know when another text will break the Internet.

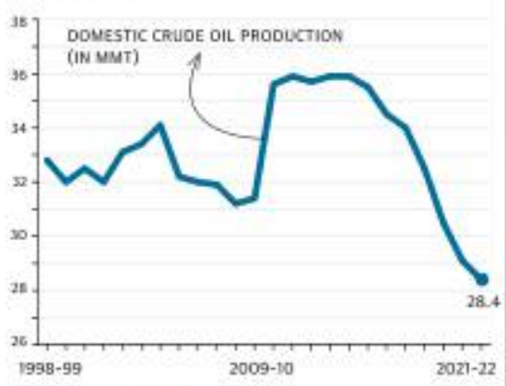
vijayakumar.kc@thehindu.co.in

DATA POINT

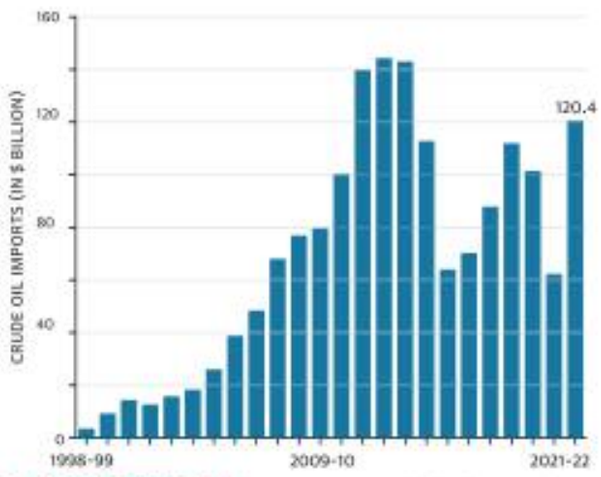
Drilling down | India's domestic crude production has been on a consistent decline.

In FY22, it slipped to 28.4 MMT (million metric tonnes), the lowest in over two decades. Despite being the third-largest consumer of oil, the country depends on imports to meet 85% of its needs. High reliance on imports has inflated India's crude import bill and widened the trade deficit. State-owned ONGC, which accounts for a bulk of domestic crude production, has seen its output decreasing steadily.
One major hiccup in India's ambition to reduce import reliance has been its ageing oil wells.
Production has been hampered significantly as output from mature wells has reduced and there have been no new major discoveries. By **Jasmin Nihalani**

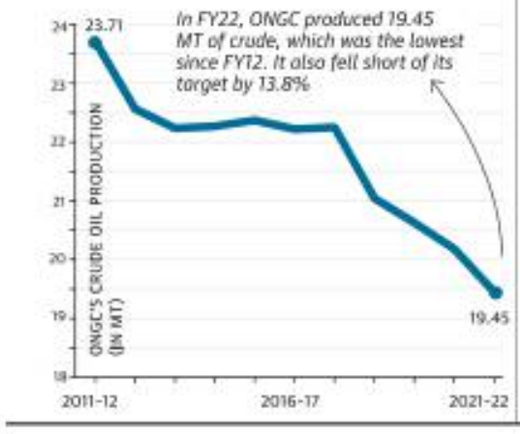
1. FALLING OUTPUT | The chart shows India's year-wise domestic crude oil production. Crude output has been consistently falling since FY15. In FY22, India's crude production fell to 28.4 MMT, the lowest in at least 24 years



2. IMPORT DEPENDENCE | Over time, India's crude consumption soared, but the country failed to augment its domestic production. This led to higher reliance on imports. In FY22, India's crude oil import bill ballooned to $120.4 billion as the crude prices surged. A higher import bill is detrimental to the macroeconomic situation as it widens the trade defict



3. ONGC'S WOES | The chart shows state-owned ONGC's year-wise crude oil production. ONGC dominates India's crude oil production. However, its output has been on a decreasing trend



4. AGEING WELLS | The primary reason for declining crude output is India's dependence on ageing wells and lack of major discoveries. Chart A shows the number of new oil wells and dry wells. Chart B shows the number of wells dug for development (left-axis) and exploration (right-axis)

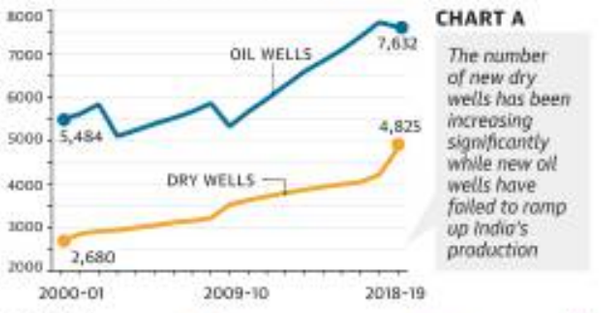
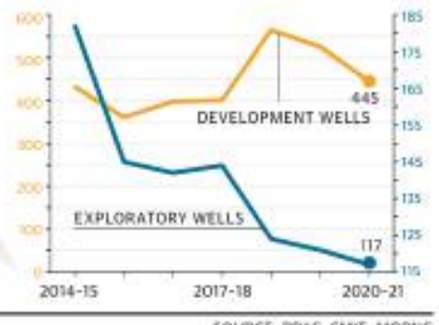


CHART A
The number of new dry wells has been increasing significantly while new oil wells have failed to ramp up India's production

CHART B
The number of new wells dug declined in both cases: development (maximising known reserves) and exploration (locating reserves of oil)



SOURCE: PPAC, CMIE, MOPNG

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 3, 1972

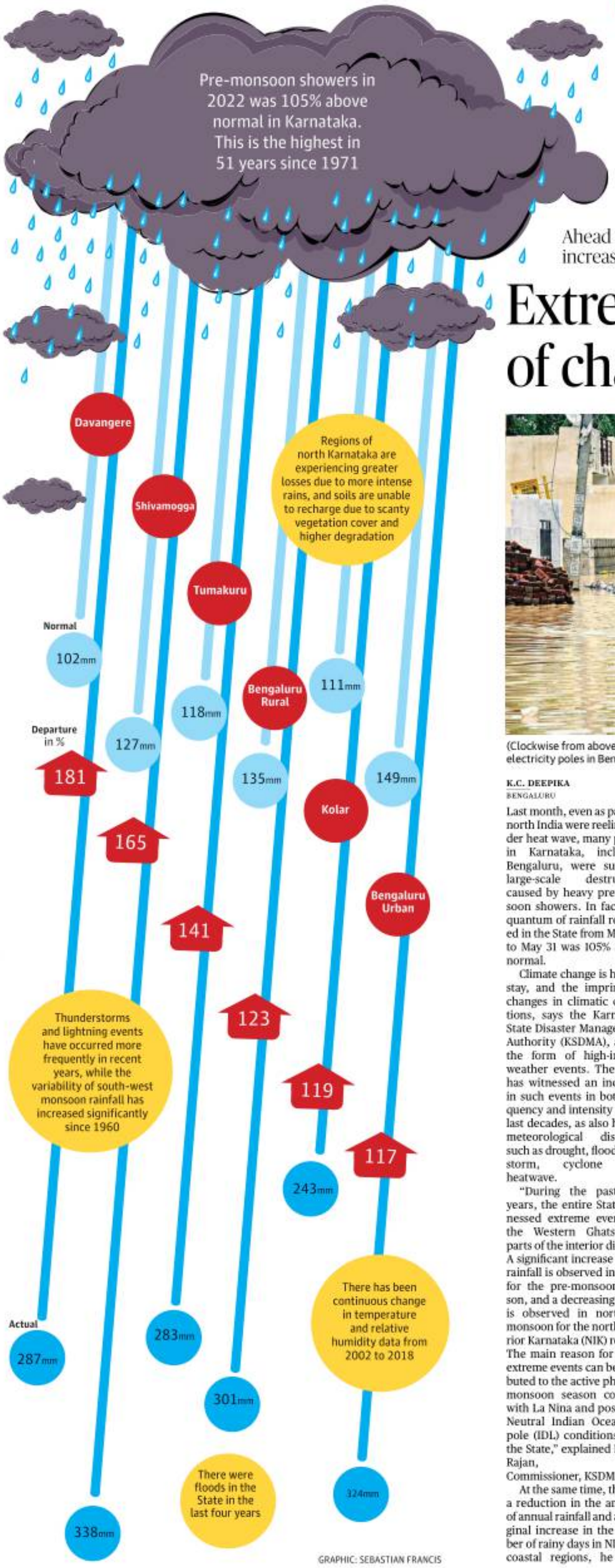
Usefulness of Commonwealth

London, June 2: Queen Elizabeth II hailed the Commonwealth to-day as a globe girdling group held together by a "sense of community". In a special message for Commonwealth Day to-morrow, also the Queen's official birthday, she told heads of States that what remains of the British Empire still was a considerable piece of real estate. "We find that there are nearly 70 separate territories, of which over 30 are independent countries, spread over every continent and ocean," the Queen said. "It may come as a surprise to some that their people add up to nearly a quarter of the population of the world." The Queen praised Commonwealth countries of South East Asia, which she visited earlier this year, for the "impressive development." And she added that "there is no aspect of our lives which is not touched and helped by the Commonwealth's varied network of day to day exchanges."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 3, 1922

Cochin royalty

The Highnesses the Maharajah of Cochin and consort with their daughter, Mr. V. Se. Rama Menon, and his wife are spending the summer at Spring Field Palace, where in two adjacent bungalows, Dewan Bahadur P. Narayana Menon, Dewan and Mr. K S. Narayana Pishorodi, B.A. B.E. Sarvathikariakar are residing. The palace is situated on a picturesque spot and the only draw back is that there are only one or two Municipal lamps en route Spring Field, where a large number of the hill tribes reside and work in one estate. On Tuesday the Maharajah gave an 'At Home' which proved a great success. The guests began to arrive at 4 p.m. and all had an enjoyable time with tennis, badminton and a novel competition entitled "My game", where two prizes to successful competitors were awarded by His Highness. The Baad of the Suffolk Regiment was in attendance and disoursed sweet music. According to the present arrangement the Maharajah, consort, the Dewan and the party will leave for Cochin on 12th instant. Probably on 10th instant at Government House the Consert to H.H. the Maharajah will be presented with Kaisarai-I.-Hind Medal in recognition of her war services. The Maharajah visited the Jam Factory. Mr. Davies, Director of Patlia Instruction of Cochin has returned and assumed work from Mr. Mathai, who avails himself of leave.



GRAPHIC: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

Rainfall variation

Departure from normal (1960-2010) for rainfall received between March 1 and May 31 in 2021: **44%**

In 2020 above normal rainfall: **3%**

237 mm Rainfall received in the State from March 1 to May 31, 2022

27 districts recorded large excess rainfall, three excess rainfall, and one district recorded normal rainfall

Karnataka's normal annual rainfall is **1,153 mm**

The south-west monsoon brings in 74% rainfall, the north-east monsoon brings 16%, and pre-monsoon 10%

There is reduction in the amount of annual rainfall, and marginal increase in the number of rainy days in north interior Karnataka and coastal regions

Main reason for extreme weather events is active phase of monsoon coupled with LaNina and positive / Neutral Indian Ocean Dipole conditions over State

Ahead of World Environment Day on June 5, a look at how Karnataka has witnessed an increase in severe weather patterns in both frequency and intensity in the last decades

Extreme weather events: Imprints of changes in climatic conditions

(Clockwise from above) A flooded residential area at Horamavu in Bengaluru; inundated farmland at Mantur village in Hubballi taluk; and damaged electricity poles in Bengaluru. • PTI, KIRAN BAKALE, & SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

K.C. DEEPIKA
BENGALURU

Last month, even as parts of north India were reeling under heat wave, many places in Karnataka, including Bengaluru, were suffered large-scale destruction caused by heavy pre-monsoon showers. In fact, the quantum of rainfall recorded in the State from March 1 to May 31 was 105% above normal.

Climate change is here to stay, and the imprints of changes in climatic conditions, says the Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA), are in the form of high-impact weather events. The State has witnessed an increase in such events in both frequency and intensity in the last decades, as also hydro-meteorological disasters such as drought, flood, hailstorm, cyclone and heatwave.

"During the past few years, the entire State witnessed extreme events in the Western Ghats and parts of the interior district. A significant increase in the rainfall is observed in Kolar for the pre-monsoon season, and a decreasing trend is observed in northeast monsoon for the north interior Karnataka (NIK) region. The main reason for these extreme events can be attributed to the active phase of monsoon season coupled with La Nina and positive / Neutral Indian Ocean Dipole (IDL) conditions over the State," explained Manoj Rajan,
Commissioner, KSDMA.

At the same time, there is a reduction in the amount of annual rainfall and a marginal increase in the number of rainy days in NIK and coastal regions, he said. The KSDMA Commissioner also said there has been a continuous change in temperature and relative humidity (RH) data from 2002 to 2018.

"The average temperature has shown an increasing trend, whereas the RH had a decreasing trend in most regions," he said. Thunderstorms and lightning events have occurred more frequently in recent years, while the variability of south-west monsoon rainfall has increased significantly since 1960.

Several districts are seeing an increase in prolonged dry periods with low or no rainfall or intermittent with short, intense spells of rainfall.

"The analysis of the temperature and relative humidity data series for 2002 to 2020 shows an increasing trend in average temperature, while the relative humidity showed a decreasing trend. The State has experienced drought for 15 years in the last two decades. Karnataka also experienced severe floods, and the last four years have been consecutive flood years for the State. The recurrence of droughts and changing rainfall patterns are detrimental to the surface and groundwater recharge and pose a significant challenge to water security," said Mr. Rajan.

Bharath Setturu, Post-Doctoral Fellow, EWRG, CES, IISc, said their study of changes in land surface temperature across agro-climatic zones of Karnataka from 2006 to 2019 using spatial data highlights increase in temperature across the agroclimatic regions of Karnataka due to large-scale deforestation, urbanisation and loss of wetlands. The districts of hot dry semi-arid and hot moist semi-arid regions, such as Bidar, Yadgir, Kalaburagi, Vijayapura, Raichur and Ballari depict an increase in temperature mostly deprived of forest cover, he added.

"Overall, the State has experienced a 0.5 to 1 degree Celsius increase in its average temperature, but in some regions, it shows 2-3 degrees Celsius. Statistical analysis between the rate of change in forest cover and change in temperature indicates a high degree of the strong correlation. We have also noticed a reduction in the number of rainy days in the Western Ghats of Karnataka (2 to 3 days), but increased rainfall intensity. Due to climate change and landscape degradation, and urbanisation, the soils across the State are unable to hold the high-intensity rains, which results in floods and landslides. Earlier, the rainfall was distributed over a long period, and intensity was less, but due to climate change, unseasonal rains are becoming common with high intensity," he explained.

In North Karnataka

Regions of North Karnataka are experiencing higher losses due to greater intensity rains, and soils are unable to recharge due to scanty vegetation cover and higher degradation. The long-term rainfall analysis shows increasing trends close to 50-100 mm increase in rainfall with a reduced number of rainy days (2 to 4), he said further, adding that climate change is certain.

An example of the noticeable shift in the weather pattern is that the annual average rainfall of Karnataka has increased by 10% during 1990-2019, when rainfall during the kharif season (June-September) and rabi season (October-December) increased by about 30% and 60%, respectively, added Indu K. Murthy, Sector Head and Vidya S, Senior Analyst, both working in the Climate, Environment and Sustainabilty sector at CSTEP.

"North Karnataka districts such as Vijayapura, Raichur, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, and Uttara Kannada experienced flooding in 2019 because of an increase in extreme rainfall events. Vijayapura received five times the normal rainfall of 436 mm, Raichur received 25% higher rainfall, and Kodagu received about 55% higher rainfall in 2019. While flooding is due to poor water management and bad drainage systems, the increase in rainfall is largely due to climate change.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC's) latest report on impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation, human-induced climate change, including more frequent and intense extreme events, has caused widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people, beyond natural climate variability," they added.

Where does this leave existing interventions? Dr. Rajan said all stakeholders have to plan and implement mitigation measures to achieve long-term climate resilience and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

"Since the Indian economy is intrinsically linked to the annual monsoon cycle, a better understanding of the future behaviour of the monsoon and its variability is warranted for disaster mitigation and for developing adaptation strategies to cope with climate variability and climate change.

With some confidence and accuracy, a quantitative assessment of the magnitude of climate change over the Indian subcontinent is also crucial to evaluate the social and economic consequences expected and formulate appropriate, though flexible, policy options," he said, adding that the government is taking several steps to mitigate the impact of climate change on agriculture and livelihood by providing scientific information, customised weather forecasts and weather information and natural hazard information to the public and farmers to monitor and manage their daily crops and activities.

Dr. Setturu stressed on the need to support large-scale afforestation of native species in degraded landscapes by involving local stakeholder. incentives for farmers for agroforestry, and distribution of high fruit yielding tree saplings to farmers on subsidy/ minimal pricing.

"Native species such as Melia dubia (Hebbevu) (which has commercial timber value) or Pongamia need to be planted in the degraded/ fallow agricultural lands, which requires minimum maintenance but fetches greater profits for the community.

Readers can write to
letters.bangalore@thehindu.co.in

Restoration of ecosystem: Have tree planting efforts borne fruit?

GUEST COLUMN

ABI T. VANAK
ANUJA MALHOTRA

For decades, it has been drilled in to us that planting trees is the "green" thing to do, a very large band-aid to the thousands of cuts that we've inflicted on the environment. To atone for the environmental sins of razing large tracts of primary forests, India has committed to having a third of its total land area, or 95 million hectares, under forest and tree cover by 2030. With the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration (2021-30) and other global commitments, mass tree-planting campaigns are often seen as a solution to mitigate the climate crisis by both government and non-government entities.

Successive governments, both at the Centre and at the State have taken to this with missionary zeal, each vying for their place under the shady canopies of the millions of trees they've sought to plant. While these efforts have attracted praise from the masses and the media, it is worth scratching the surface of the shiny tree bark to see if tree-planting activities have really been successful in India, both in terms of ecological and social parameters.

A recent long-term study from Himachal Pradesh showed that more than half of the expenditure in plantation activities was wasted, either due to failure of plantations, or through planting trees in the wrong places.

Thus, the question of what to plant, and where to plant, and whether to plant at all should be foremost in the minds of restoration planners. However, as several studies have shown, most plantations are planned as "budgetary activities" rather than as part of a bouquet of interventions within an ecosystem-centric approach. Arguably, the most common oversight is not differentiating reforestation (planting trees on deforested land) and afforestation (planting trees where plants may not have historically occurred). Due to the scarcity of land, trees are often planted in open and natural ecosystems (ONEs) such as grasslands, savannas, shrublands, and meadows in the mistaken notion that these are unproductive or degraded. At the same time, respective State governments and the Central government establish ambitious targets for increasing forest cover which pressures local bodies to implement these aggressive tree-planting initiatives.

Such ecologically unsound afforestation interventions threaten the biodiversity in the ecosystems.

There are very few who challenge the notion that forests are effective in sequestering carbon. There is widespread consensus in the scientific community that one of the most powerful actions to mitigate climate change is in keeping mature forests intact by halting deforestation. It thus follows that some of the biggest programmes run by the Indian government, including the compensatory afforestation programme, that promotes afforestation and regeneration activities as a way of compensating for forest land diverted to non-forest uses, may not be the most effective nature climate solution.

There are other issues associated with afforestation that goes beyond ecology. It often induces a 'double displacement' of people who first lose rights of their land for forest clearance, and subsequently for plantation activities without adequate compensation.

Plantation targets set by governments and supported by the civil society at large thus have two major issues – lack of understanding of natural habitats and designing context specific interventions, and lack of monitoring/ evaluation of the interventions in terms of biodiversity conservation, water tables and well-being of local communities.

Tree plantations should be specifically targeted to add value in areas where much human-induced land-use change has already occurred. However, natural, open ecosystems should not be subject to further land use change by implementing unscientific and mechanical interventions that can have detrimental effects. By adopting an ecosystem-centric approach for restoration, we hope to nudge the do-gooders away from tree-planting to adopting a socio-ecologically responsible approach to a land-use problem.

(Abi Vanak is a Senior Fellow at ATREE and Anuja Malhotra is a Policy Analyst at ATREE)

FROM PAGE ONE

2 dead in fresh targeted killings in Valley

Meanwhile, in another targeted attack, terrorists fired upon two outside labourers working in a brick kiln in the Chadoora area of Budgam on Thursday evening. The duo was shifted to hospital where one of them succumbed, a police spokesman said. The deceased migrant worker was identified as Dilkhush, a resident of Bihar.

Earlier in the day, three soldiers were injured in a blast inside the vehicle they were travelling in Shopian town of South Kashmir .

"Around 3 a.m., based on specific intelligence, an operation was launched from the Sedow camp to lay a cordon and search in the Patitohalan area. While moving to the target area, approximately one km from Sedow, an explosion took place in the civil-hired vehicle, being used by the team, resulting in injuries to three soldiers," an Army spokesperson said.

He said the blast was very likely to be from either an improvised explosive device (IED) or a grenade or a battery malfunctioning in the vehicle.

"The injured personnel were immediately shifted and given first aid at the district hospital, Shopian, and thereafter evacuated to the 92 Base Hospital, Srinagar. One soldier is critical while two other injured are stable," the spokesman said.

No let-up in protests by Pandits trying to relocate

The L-G administration has not conceded to the demand. The employees had given an ultimatum to the government till Thursday.

"The lollipops of accommodation, transfers, safety and security will not work. We cannot continue our jobs by risking our lives. We are sure that the government will discuss our only demand of relocation and take some bold step with immediate effect," a Pandit employee said.

The education department in Kashmir has directed the Chief Education Officers (CEOs) to post non – Muslim employees "at their desirous and safe places".

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal, Shyambir on Thursday visited the Kheer Bhawani temple in Tulmulla, and kicked off preparations for the annual 'mela', one of the key festivals of Pandits.

Govt. not for relocation of Kashmiri Pandits now

The details of the meeting were not known.

The Kashmiri Pandit employees, recruited under the Prime Minister's special rehabilitation package from 2008 onward and the Hindu employees from Jammu recruited under the Scheduled Caste category and posted in the Valley have been demanding relocation to Jammu.

The Kashmiri Pandits employed under the scheme stay in gated colonies built by the government.

Ardent demands

The demand to relocate have intensified since May 12 when a revenue official Rahul Bhat was singled out and killed in his office in Chadoora area of Budgam. On June 1, a Hindu teacher Rajni Bala was killed on way to work in Kulgam and on June 2, a bank employee from Rajasthan- Vijay Kumar was shot dead when he was at his office in Kulgam.

"Though we are seized of the matter, the administration cannot agree to the demands of minorities to move them stock and barrel to Jammu. The government employees can be posted in district headquarters and at places where adequate security is available," said the official.

Eighteen Kashmiri Pandits and Hindus have been killed in the Valley after Article 370 granting special status to Jammu and Kashmir was written down by Parliament in August 2019.

The Union Home Ministry informed the Rajya Sabha on February 9 that the land of 610 Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu and Kashmri has been restored in the past five years. The Union Territory administration in Jammu and Kashmir had launched a portal in September 2021 to address the grievances of Kashmiri Migrants related to immovable properties and community assets.

Since October last, there have been a series of attacks in Srinagar-Central Kashmir belt. "Anonymity and floating population gives the terrorists a cover to carry out attacks with impunity. The terrorists are now leaderless and faceless," said the official.

Officials estimate that the Valley has been flooded with small weapons in the past six months, pushed into India from Pakistan through drones and tunnels along the Jammu border. There is an assessment by agencies that the targeted attacks would increase in the coming days. The Border Security Force (BSF) has detected at least five tunnels in the past 18 months along the Jammu border.

"The brief lull in activity post Article 370 has been broken since October 2021. The terrorist groups have changed strategy and are resorting to killing minorities and non-locals to make it appear as a war against changing the demography of the Muslim-majority Valley. The recent delimitation exercise is also being perceived as a mode to change the demography of the Valley," said the official.

Panel to hear appeals on social media posts

"The Grievance Appellate Committee shall deal with such appeal expeditiously and shall make an endeavour to dispose of the appeal finally within 30 calendar days from the date of receipt of the appeal," it states.

It further adds that, "Every order passed by the Grievance Appellate Committee shall be complied with by the intermediary concerned".

The committee will consist of a chairperson and other members appointed by the Central government. In another instance, the government had asked Twitter to remove the 'manipulated media' tag from certain tweets from verified accounts of many BJP leaders, including Sambit Patra.

However, these were not removed by Twitter. In these tweets, the BJP leaders shared certain documents alleging use of a toolkit by the Congress to hurt PM Modi's image during the second wave of COVID-19.

Minority certificate plan triggers fears

A few non-Muslim communities welcomed it, while Muslims are worried about divisive politics

RAHUL KARMARKAR
GUWAHATI

The Assam government's plan announced in March to provide minority certificates to six communities has caused disquiet among certain groups while raising hope among others. While several "indigenous" and Bengali-origin Muslim forums see in it a divisive ploy on the part of the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led BJP government, some non-Muslim communities have welcomed it as a step that could help them being "finally counted as minorities".

The fears primarily emanate from the Chief Minister's statement about redefining minorities district-wise, "depending upon the geography, population and threat perception".

Mr. Sarma in March called Muslims a majority community, and has often cited examples such as of the scene in western Assam's South Salmara district to buttress the point that Hindus are a minority in several districts.

> This is an important decision that will benefit the minorities in availing themselves of government schemes, though there has been no decision on which department will issue the certificate and what the criteria will be
>
> HABIB MOHAMMAD CHOWDHURY
> CHAIRMAN, MINORITIES DEVELOPMENT BOARD, ASSAM

The government has, however, not spelt out yet if the status of a minority community would get affected if it is the dominant community in terms of numbers in a certain district.

Deepening the confusion, the CM on Wednesday said the State Cabinet will decide by August 15 a separate classification for indigenous minorities, including Muslims, who have not migrated from other places. There again, he did not clarify whether the non-indigenous minorities will continue to get the minority benefits once this new classification is made.

The six communities to be issued minority certificates are Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and Parsis. According to the 2011 Census, Hindus account for 61.47% of Assam's total population and Muslims 34.22%. Christians constitute 3.74% while the percentage of Buddhists, Sikhs and Jain is less than 1%.

The All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) sniffed a design to go beyond the Hindu-Muslim divide and drive a wedge within a religion behind the certificate move.

"What is the need for a certificate when the Constitution of India has already given minority status to these [six] communities?" said AIUDF general secretary and MLA Aminul Islam.

The indigenous or Assamese Muslims - they are divided into Goria, Moria, Deshi and Julaha according to the community they converted from - are also not convinced.

Habib Mohammad Chowdhury, the Chairman of the Minorities Development Board, defended the certificate move as a "historic" one.

"This is an important decision that will benefit the minorities in availing themselves of government schemes, though there has been no decision on which department will issue the certificate and what the criteria will be," he told *The Hindu*.

A minority certificate helps students secure scholarships in educational institutes: for example, under the post-matriculation scholarship scheme in Assam, minority students studying in ClassII to Ph.D. are offered up to ₹10,000 annually to pursue higher education.

Sangh won't launch temple stir: RSS chief

Why escalate the quarrel, he asks

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

While stating that the Gyanvapi mosque had a history that one could not change, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday said there was no need to look for *Shivlings* in mosques daily and needlessly escalate a controversy.

Speaking in Nagpur during the concluding ceremony of an RSS training programme, Mr. Bhagwat said the Sangh was not interested in launching any further agitations after the Ram Janmabhoomi movement.

Stressing the need to accept the court's decision as supreme, the RSS chief further said that a way out of the Gyanvapi mosque-Kashi Vishwanath temple dispute must be found by mutual consent.

"When Islam came to India through invaders, thousands of shrines were demolished to demoralise people seeking India's freedom. Among these are temples which are revered by Hindus. Issues related to them keep rising from time to time. While Hindus are not against Muslims, the former think these shrines ought to be revived. We have already said on November 9 that we are not interested in any movements after Ram Janmabhoomi agitation," he said.

Commenting on the ongoing Gyanvapi mosque case, Mr. Bhagwat said one cannot change history, and remarked that the past was not made by today's Hindus or Muslims.

"Why look for *Shivlings* in mosques every day? Why escalate the quarrel? India does not believe in one worship and one language because we are descendants of the same ancestor," he said.

Mr. Bhagwat further said that whenever people knock at the court's doors, then they must be ready to accept the court's judgment.

Lawyer sends notice to ASI

'Idols from Mathura temple buried under Agra mosque'

ABHINAY LAKSHMAN
NEW DELHI

With the Shahi Idgah Mosque-Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Temple dispute in the courts of Mathura, a plaintiff in the matter on Thursday sent a legal notice to the Union of India and the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) asking that they stop people from entering the Begum Sahiba Masjid near the Agra Fort and excavate the site to look for Hindu idols.

Advocate Mahendra Pratap Singh claimed that Mughal emperor Aurangazeb had after allegedly destroying the temple in Mathura, buried "jewel-studded" idols of Lord Krishna under the staircase of the Agra mosque.

The notice under Section 80 of the Code of Civil Procedure threatens to drag the government to a civil court unless it acts on it within the stipulated time of two months. In addition to asking that visitors be "immediately" stopped from entering the Agra mosque, the notice asks the ASI to excavate the mosque site, retrieve the idols allegedly buried there, and restore them to the Keshav Dev Temple authorities in Mathura.

Dragging issue: The notice threatens to drag the government to a civil court unless it acts within two months. •PTI

Mr. Singh said the notice had been served on the Union of India, the Director-General of the ASI and local ASI officials in Mathura and Agra.

'Bid to demean Hindus'

Mr. Singh claims that the idols were buried under the mosque in Agra because the Mughal emperor allegedly wanted to demean Hindus by having people "trample over the idols" every time they visit the mosque. He adds that thousands of people visiting the mosque every day by "trampling on the idols" continues to hurt the religious feelings of crores of Hindus like him.

The notice comes days after Mr. Singh had filed an application in a Mathura court seeking directions to the ASI that the Agra mosque be excavated on the aforementioned grounds. However, the court had returned the matter and said the notice needed to be first served to the respondents in the matter, given that they are government authorities.

The next hearing is now scheduled for July first week.

DGCA slaps ₹10 lakh fine on Vistara

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Thursday levied a fine of ₹10 lakh on Vistara as it was found that two of its pilots who operated a flight of the airline to Indore in August 2021 had failed to undergo retraining after joining the airline in order to be approved for carrying out take-offs and landings.

"The aircraft landing was being conducted by the first officer, without either him or the captain trained at the simulator. This is a serious violation endangering the lives of the passengers onboard and, therefore, a penalty of ₹10 lakh has been levied on the airline," an official said.

No respite for people booked under UAPA

Freeze on sedition has not transformed into bail for Kappan and Khalid as they face case under UAPA

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court's freeze on sedition proceedings under the colonial Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code seems to have not yet made a ripple on the ground for persons who have also been charged under the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) of 1967 in the same case or separately.

The effect of the apex court's May 11 order to keep in abeyance the use of the colonial provision of Section 124A has not transformed into bail for journalist Siddique Kappan and activists Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam, who also face charges under the UAPA.

The Supreme Court, while suspending criminal trials and court proceedings under Section 124A, had made it clear that adjudication with respect to other sections of law, if any, would proceed if the court concerned was "of the opinion that no prejudice would be caused to the accused".

53% arrested are youths

Imam had recently approached the Delhi High Court for bail in a case involving his speeches against the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Act on the strength of the Supreme Court order. He was advised to approach the trial court. He had recently moved the lower court. Kappan was arrested by the U.P. Police on October 5, 2020, *en route* to Hathras where a Dalit woman was allegedly killed. He was booked for sedition, promoting enmity, and later under the UAPA. Khalid faces charges under both Section 124A and UAPA in a case connected to the Delhi riots.

The Home Ministry is reported to have said in Parliament last year that nearly 53% of persons arrested under the UAPA in 2018, 2019 and 2020 were below the age of 30.

An amendment made in 2019 has made the Act even more powerful. Now it can designate individuals, and not just associations, as 'terrorists'. The Supreme Court's judgment in National Investigation Agency versus Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali in 2019 has also made bail in a UAPA case a virtually insurmountable task.

The judgment has confirmed the "high burden" placed by Section 43D(5) of UAPA on an accused to demonstrate that the prosecution's charges against him were not based on "reasonable grounds". It has held that a trial court could reject bail on finding that the relevant material produced by the investigating agency was "indicative of the fact that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accusation is *prima facie* true".

So, as far as persons facing both Section 124A and UAPA charges in the same case or variously, the suspension of the Section 124A, though a great relief, would hardly lead to freedom. Continued incarceration under the post-colonial UAPA may be their reality.

This is when the almost non-existent chance of bail under UAPA seems to violate the principle of the SC's own 1977 judgment in State Of Rajasthan vs Balchand, which had held that bail, and not jail, should be the norm.

Pandit Bhajan Sopori passes away

He envisioned his music as cultural bridge between Valley and rest of India

ANUJ KUMAR
NEW DELHI

Even as the music world was struggling to come to terms with the passing of Pandit Shivkumar Sharma, the news of the demise of another santoor legend, Pandit Bhajan Sopori (1948-2022), on Thursday came as a rude shock.

Pt. Sopori died of cancer in a Gurugram hospital. He is survived by his wife and two sons. His legacy will be carried forward by his younger son Abhay

Hailing from a musician's family that nurtured the Shaivite, Sufi, and Hindustani classical traditions in Kashmir for generations, Pt. Sopori led the revival of Sufi and folk music in the State to spread the message of humanism. He remained positive even when the insurgency engulfed his home district of Sopore, and kept organising events at the grassroots.

While the world called him the Saint of Santoor, Pt. Sopori, a Padma Shri winner, often described himself as a cultural bridge between Kashmir and the rest of India, and called santoor a living symbol of national integration.

Pandit Bhajan Sopori

Using music as a balm to heal the wounds and bring the youth in the Kashmir Valley to the mainstream, Pt. Sopori composed a collection of prayers and *Tarana-e-Watan* (patriotic songs), sung by large public choirs as a common prayer in the Valley. His vast repertoire has compositions derived from *Naats* (Islamic devotional songs) and Vedic chants. He drew his inspiration from the fountain of saints like Lalleshwari and Gani Kashmiri.

Born in Srinagar, Pt. Sopori inherited the Sufiana tradition of santoor from his great grandfather Shankar Pandit and grandfather Samsar Chand Sopori. His father, Shambhu Nath Sopori, who was called the father of music in Jammu & Kashmirintroduced Pt. Sopori to the family instrument at a young age.

More assistance in pipeline for Afghanistan

KALLOL BHATTACHARJEE
NEW DELHI

A delegation of Indian diplomats on Thursday visited the Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital in Kabul, which has distributed India-made COVID-19 vaccines in the recent past. The MEA said that more foodgrains and medical shipments will be sent to Afghanistan in the coming months. It was also announced that India has sent one million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Iran for distribution among Afghan refugees staying in Iran.

The team also visited the Habibia High School, which was renovated with assistance from the Government of India, and the Chimtala Electricity Sub-station, which was built by the Power Grid Corporation of India for electricity supply to Kabul. These initiatives were undertaken during the two decades of non-Taliban rule in Kabul that began in 2001 and ended with the flight of President Ashraf Ghani from Kabul last August. The Indian team included a woman official, which is being interpreted as a subtle reminder to the Taliban to ensure equitable treatment for women in Afghanistan.

IN BRIEF

Modi to lay foundation stone of new projects

LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the third ground breaking ceremony of the Uttar Pradesh Investors Summit in Lucknow on Friday and during the event, he will lay foundation stone of 1,406 projects worth ₹80,000 crore, said a statement from the government said. "These projects are on the verge of or have already started commercial operations," the U.P. government said in a compendium on the event which is part of the BJP government's efforts to promote the State as an investment destination.

People don't feel safe in Punjab: Hardeep Puri

NEW DELHI

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday expressed concern over the law and order situation in Punjab after the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) came to power in March, saying people in the border State do not feel safe. Mr. Puri, who holds Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA), was addressing a press conference at the HUA Ministry offices about the achievements of the two Ministries in the eight years of the Narendra Modi government. Mr. Puri said: "Law and order has deteriorated to where people don't feel safe. It's a free-for-all. They [AAP] are not able to handle it."

BJP MP seeks probe into Singer KK's death

KOLKATA

The political slugfest over the death of Bollywood singer KK, continued on Thursday with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Saumitra Khan writing to Union Home Minister Amit Shah seeking a probe by central agency into the singer's death. In the letter shared the MP on social media, he had raised questions like the crowd exceeding the capacity of the auditorium, non-functioning of air conditioners and whether the local police station was informed about the concert. KK died on May 31, soon after performing at a live concert at Nazrul Manch in Kolkata.

New innings: Hardik Patel with Gujarat BJP president C.R. Patil in Gandhinagar on Thursday. •VIJAY SONEJI

Hardik Patel joins BJP in a low-key event

Gujarat BJP chief inducts him into party

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Two weeks after resigning from the Congress, Patidar quota agitation leader Hardik Patel joined the BJP in a low-key event on Thursday, marked by the absence of senior leaders or key Ministers, to start a "new chapter" and as a "small soldier in the PM's efforts to build a new India".

Gujarat BJP president C.R. Paatil inducted the 28-year-old leader into the party in the presence of former Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel, his *bete noire* during and after the quota agitation.

"I am about to start a new chapter with feelings of national interest, regional interest and social interest. I will work as a small soldier in the massive efforts in national service under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Mr. Hardik Patel tweeted in the morning before heading to the State BJP headquarters in Gandhinagar.

Several priests and saints were present at the event.

Cong. moves MLAs to resorts ahead of high-stakes RS polls

Party fears poaching in Rajasthan, Haryana as BJP eyes extra seats

MOHAMMED IQBAL
ASHOK KUMAR
JAIPUR/ GURUGRAM

As the Rajya Sabha election in Haryana and Rajasthan are expected to go down to the wire with the emergence of BJP-backed Independent candidates, the Congress on Thursday moved its MLAs from these States to resorts to prevent poaching.

While the Haryana lawmakers have been moved to party-ruled Chhattisgarh in an attempt to keep the flock together, the lawmakers from Rajasthan will be sequestered in the hotel near Udaipur where the party's *Chintan Shivir* was held last month.

Elections to four Rajya Sabha seats in Rajasthan and two in Haryana will take place on June 10.

Nearly 40 Congress MLAs and some Independents in Rajasthan boarded a luxury bus from the Chief Minister's residence in Civil Lines, where they were called for lunch after a two-day workshop of the Pradesh Congress Committee.

Pep talk: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot addressing Congress MLAs on Thursday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The bus was escorted by a police team, while several Ministers left for Udaipur by their own vehicles.

Another bus ferrying a second batch of MLAs was scheduled to leave late in the evening, while Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot would fly in.

Of the four seats, the Congress can comfortably get two candidates – Randeep Surjewala and Mukul Wasnik – elected but the contest has become tighter for the third seat where it has fielded Pramod Tiwari. The party is short by 11 votes and will need the vote of its allies and Independents to ensure Mr. Tiwari's victory.

The BJP, which has fielded former Minister Ghanshyam Tiwari as its official candidate, is supporting media baron Subhash Chandra contesting as an Independent.

"We are confident of winning three seats. The BJP is playing dirty tricks of horse-trading, but it is not going to succeed," Mr. Gehlot told reporters.

While the majority of the 13 Independent MLAs have announced their support to the Congress, all eyes are on the MLAs of smaller parties.

In Haryana, the entry of Kartikeya Sharma, a media baron, as an Independent candidate has queered the pitch for senior Congress leader Ajay Maken. Majority of the 31 MLAs of the Congress were shifted to Chhattisgarh to prevent the possibility of poaching.

Led by Haryana Congress in-charge Vivek Bansal, 27 MLAs arrived in Raipur in the evening after a meeting in Delhi. However, disgruntled Adampur MLA Kuldeep Bishnoi and Tosham MLA Kiran Choudhry, also former Haryana Cabinet Minister, chose to stay behind.

In Haryana, votes of 31 MLAs are required to get elected as a Rajya Sabha member. Though the Congress has this number, there is speculation that Mr. Bishnoi, who is upset with the high command after being ignored for the post of Pradesh Congress Committee chief, may not vote on party lines.

Sonia Gandhi tests positive for COVID-19

PM wishes her a speedy recovery

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi tested positive for COVID-19 and has isolated herself, the party's communication chief Randeep Surjewala said on Thursday.

In a series of tweets, Mr. Surjewala also said that Ms. Gandhi will appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on June 8 to answer the agency's queries with regard to a money laundering case involving *National Herald*, the party-owned publication

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin were among the top leaders who wished the Congress chief a speedy recovery.

"Wishing Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi Ji a speedy recovery from COVID-19," Mr. Modi tweeted.

"Wishing Tmt. Sonia Gandhi, who has tested COVID-19 positive, a speedy and complete recovery. I request everyone in public life to be cautious as the pandemic is not yet over," Mr. Stalin tweeted.

Sonia Gandhi

"We @INCTelangana in the DCC presidents meeting decided to have 300 Poojas and prayers before tonight for the Speedy recovery of Smt Sonia Gandhi Amma. #SoniaGandhi. (Each District 10 Temples/ Church/ Mosque's/ Gurudwaras In Telangana)," tweeted the Congress leader in charge for Telangana, Manickam Tagore.

Addressing the media in Bengaluru, Mr. Surjewala said the Congress chief is determined to appear before the ED and hoped that she would recover by then.

"She hopes to recover by then; if there is any other and further information, we shall inform you," he said.

Cong. hits out at Centre over Valley killings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

With a bank manager from Rajasthan and a migrant labourer becoming the latest victims of terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), which has seen a spurt in targeted killings, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Thursday urged the Prime Minister to take steps to restore peace.

And a day after Home Minister Amit Shah watched a special screening of the film, *Samrat Prithviraj*, a movie based on emperor Prithviraj Chauhan, Mr. Gandhi also took a dig without naming him. "Bank managers, teachers, innocent people are being killed every day and Kashmiri Pandits are forced to flee. Those who are responsible for protecting them don't have the time to spare from their busy schedule of promoting films. For the BJP, Kashmir serves as the stairs to attain power. Please take immediate steps to restore peace, Prime Minister," Mr. Gandhi tweeted.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala also hit out at the BJP government and shared media reports showing purported photos of Kashmiri Pandits queuing up at the Srinagar airport for fleeing from the Valley.

India seeing a cultural revival since 2014: Shah

Minister speaks at movie screening

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has termed the reign of Prithviraj Chauhan, the 12th century ruler of Delhi, a "*padaav*" or stage of Indian history which went on for a thousand years till August 1947 when the country gained Independence, and said the "cultural revival" taking place in the country since 2014 would once again take the country to great heights.

He was speaking at the pre-release screening of the film *Samrat Prithviraj* in New Delhi on Wednesday evening. The film, directed by Chandraprakash Dwivedi under the Yash Raj Films banner, stars actors Akshay Kumar and Manushi Chhillar as the main leads.

The film is based on the long ballad *Prithviraj Raso* composed by the bard at Prithviraj's court, Chand Bardai, and depicts the battles between Chauhan and Mohammad Ghori, notably the two battles of Taraori or Tarain as it is known in popular culture.

The defeat of Prithviraj in the second battle of Taraori proved a turning point in ushering in the Delhi Sultanate.

The top brass of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh, including sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat and second-in-command Dattatreya Hosabele, will attend a special screening of the film on Friday evening.

Amit Shah

Part of a trilogy

Clearly, the Sangh Parivar has extended its support to the film, which will be part of a trilogy by Akshay Kumar, the next two being on the festival of Raksha Bandhan and on Ram Setu.

After the film, Mr. Shah, who attended the screening with his family (after a gap of 13 years, he said) gave a short speech.

"Prithviraj fought on every inch of land between Afghanistan and Delhi. The fight of 900-1000 has not been in vain and we won Independence in 1947. I can say with great conviction that cultural revival since 2014 will once again take the country to those heights," Mr. shah said.

India, Israel seek links on futuristic defence tech

Broad consensus between both the countries on fortifying strategic ties, says Rajnath Singh

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his visiting Israeli counterpart Benny Gantz on Thursday discussed partnerships within the government-to-government framework, military training, and technological cooperation with a focus on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) and defensive capabilities.

A Letter of Intent on enhancing cooperation in the field of futuristic defence technologies was also exchanged between the two Ministers, a Defence Ministry statement said.

The Ministers also discussed a cooperation agreement signed between the Indian Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israel's Directorate for Defence R&D. The Ministers declared their intention to further develop defence cooperation in a manner that harnesses Israel's "technological advance and operational experience", together with India's "extraordinary development and production capabilities", the statement said. "Cooperation between the countries would be in line with Prime Minister Modi's 'Make in India' vision."

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Israeli counterpart Benny Gantz in New Delhi on Thursday. •SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Meeting with PM

Before the bilateral meeting, Mr. Gantz paid homage at the National War Memorial and reviewed a Guard of Honour on the lawns of Vigyan Bhavan. Mr. Gantz also met Mr. Modi and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

"Discussed key issues pertaining to defence cooperation and global and regional scenarios during the bilateral meeting. We place great value on our strategic partnership with Israel," Mr. Singh said on Twitter after the meeting. "There is a broad consensus between both the countries on further strengthening the bilateral strategic and defence cooperation."

The two countries are close to finalising a bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Mr. Gantz is accompanied by his Chief of Staff Maayan Israeli, Military Secretary Brig. Gen. Yaki Dolf, Director of the Policy and POL-MIL Bureau Dror Shalom and Head of the International Defence Cooperation Directorate Yair Kulas.

BJP to hold national meet in Hyderabad

The two-day event will be held in July

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A week after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Hyderabad where he roundly criticised dynastic parties without naming the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), the Bharatiya Janata Party said that it would be holding its national executive meet in the city on July 2 and 3

This will be the first physical meeting of the BJP's key decision-making body outside the national capital after a gap of five years. And it will be the third meeting in the southern States after the party came to power in 2014.

All top leaders, including Mr. Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president J.P. Nadda, Union Ministers and Chief Ministers of States ruled by the party are expected to attend the meeting.

The Hyderabad meeting is being held at the time when the party is trying to make further inroads in the State, whereas the K. Chandrashekar Rao-led ruling TRS is also working on to cobble an alliance to challenge the saffron party at the national level.

J.P. Nadda

The BJP had won only one seat in the 119-member Telangana Assembly in 2018, but the party managed to win bypolls in Dubbaka and Huzurabad constituencies.

The BJP also improved its numbers in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation council in 2020 by winning 48 seats, compared to the four in 2016.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
DEPUTY CHIEF ENGINEER/II/ CONSTRUCTION/TRIVANDRUM
TENDER NOTICE No. 07-DYCE-I-CN-TVC-2022-0T dated 25.02.2022
NAME OF WORK: Doubling of track between Thiruvananthapuram - Kanniyakumari - Proposed Drilling of Confirmatory Bore holes from Thiruvananthapuram (TVC) to Eraniel (ERL) comprising of cuttings, banking, bridges and buildings along the section.
Tender Value: ₹ 48,52,817/-
Period of Completion: ELEVEN Months
Tender Closing date: 16.06.2022, 15.00 hrs
Earnest Money Deposit: ₹ 97,100/-
Complete details and tender document will be available at https://www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/I Construction, Trivandrum
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, "MESCOM BHAVANA", Bejai, Mangaluru - 575 004
Ph: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425
No. MESCOM/PROC/PURC/86/2022-PROC Date: 24.05.2022
TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement Portal Only)
MESCOM invites tender for Manufacture & Supply of following material as per technical specification:

Tender No.	Name of the Material proposed for Procurement	Quantity
MESCOM/2022-23/IND828	25KVA Star-1 (4 Star) Transformers	3000 Nos
MESCOM/2022-23/IND829	63KVA Star-1 (4 Star) Transformers	1000 Nos

The interested eligible bidders may log on to : www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 03.06.2022.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.) (Proc.), Corporate Office
For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No.: **Re Tender 22 & 23/22-23/SE/PHC/PKD.**
JJM - CWSS to Karimpuzha and Akathethara Panchayaths - Construction of OHSR, Pump House, CWPM and providing FHTCs
EMD: ₹5,00,000 Tender fee: ₹17,700
Last date for submitting tender: 18-06-2022, 03:00 pm. Ph: 0491 2544927
Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
KWA-JB-GL-6-294-2022-23 Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Palakkad

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
Tender Notice No. TBM-SG-CN-2022-23-01-OT Dated: 31.05.2022
For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Tambaram invites e-tender for the following works:
Name of the work: Shifting and relocating of Signalling and Telecommunication cables in connection with fourth line work between Chennai Egmore and Chennai Beach Jn. of Chennai division.

Cash value ₹	Bid Security (EMD) ₹	Last Date and time of submission of e-Tender through IREPS site	Cost of Tender Document	Period of Completion in month(s)
25215739.82	276100.00	22.06.2022 upto 11.00 hrs.	NIL	Four

Tenderers can view full details of tender and submit their offer at the e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in of Indian Railways.
The supply/work is subject to GST rules applicable from time to time
Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ Construction/Tambaram, Chennai-600045
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

"Save Electricity"
Madhya Gujarat Vij Co. Ltd.
Corporate office:
5th Floor, Sardar Patel Vidyut Bhavan, Race Course, Vadodara. Customer Care No. 19124
TENDER NOTICE No.: (ID: 528365, 528511, 528548, 528591, 528662, 528615, 528653)
MGVCL Web site: www.mgvcl.com Dept-GOG: http://guj-epd.gov.in
Online tenders are invited for **Full Turnkey Contract (Design, Supply and Installation) for Development of Distribution Infrastructure work for Loss reduction at Dist. Anand, Chhotaudepur, Dahod, Kheda, Mahisagar, Panchmahal, Vadodara under Revamped Reforms-Based and Result-linked Distribution Sector Scheme as per specification, terms and condition of tender.** Tender documents available on web-site: **https://mgvcl.nprocure.com** (for on line submission, view and down load) and GUVNL / MGVCL websites **www.gseb.com** & **www.mgvcl.com** (for online view and download) Interested vendors may surf the above web sites.
***Note*: Be in touch with our websites till opening of tender.**
Additional Chief Engineer (Proc)

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE No: SA-E-2-2022-23-W
Divisional Railway Manager / Electrical / Salem Division, Salem-5 for and on behalf of the President of India Invites E-Tender for the under mentioned works. Online bids only will be accepted. For detailed NIT, qualification criteria, bidding document, tender submission etc. can be viewed / downloaded from website portal **www.ireps.gov.in.**

E-Tender Notice No., Date and Name of Work	Details
1) **SA-E2-2022-23-W1 Dt 22-06-2022** Replacement of EI at TPT, KEY, DST, MAP, BDY, BQI stations on age cum condition basis-Electrical arrangements-Balance work	Approx. cost: ₹ 4,76,470/- EMD: ₹ 9,500/- Completion Period: 2 Months
2) **SA-E-2-2022-23-W2 Dt 22-06-2022** Salem Div. Elimination of Overhead lines by Providing LTUG cables with Feeder Pillar arrangements at Salem, Erode and Podanur Railway Colonies-Electrical arrangements.	Approx. cost: ₹ 1,21,02,524/- EMD: ₹ 2,10,500/- Completion Period: 6 Months
3) **SA-E-2-2022-23-W3 Dt 22-06-2022** Southern Railway - Provision of Train Collision Avoidance System in lieu of ACD at JTJ-SA-ED Section-Electrical arrangements	Approx. cost: ₹ 51,54,906/- EMD: ₹ 1,03,100/- Completion Period: 6 Months
4) **SA-E-2-2022-23-W4 Dt 22-06-2022** Salem Div.- Provision of redundancy by using High Availability Single Section Digital Axle Counter (55 section) in JTJ-ED-PTJ, ED-KRR-TP, SA-KRR, SA-VRI and CBF-MTP Section over SA Division.	Approx. cost: ₹ 43,68,769/- EMD: ₹ 87,400/- Completion Period: 6 Months
5) **SA-E-2-2022-23-W5 Dt 22-06-2022** Salem Div. - Provision of Eco-friendly things in CBE junction - Phase - I - Electrical arrangements.	Approx. cost: ₹ 10,08,793/- EMD: ₹ 20,200/- Completion Period: 2 Months
6) **SA-E-2-2021-22-W6 Dt 22-06-2022** Salem Div.- Creation of IOH Facilities with Two Pit Lines of One Coach Length at Erode Sick Line - Electrical arrangements.	Approx. cost: ₹ 6,13,347/- EMD: ₹ 12,300/- Completion Period: 6 Months
7) **SA-E-2-2021-22-W7 Dt 22-06-2022** Salem Div.- Passenger's facilities for Divyang person at D&E category stations (57 Nos.) - Electrical arrangements - Balance work	Approx. cost: ₹ 23,42,684.35 EMD: ₹ 46,900/- Completion Period: 6 Months
8) **SA-E-2-2021-22-W8 Dt 22-06-2022** Salem Div.- Toilet Ventilation Modification in LHB Coaches - Electrical Arrangements	Approx. cost: ₹ 12,94,785/- EMD: ₹ 25,900/- Completion Period: 3 Months
For all the works Closing Time & Date	**15.00 hrs. on 22.06.2022**
For all the works Bid Opening Time & Date	**15.30 hrs. on 22.06.2022**

All Addendum/Corrigendum, Time extension, Clarifications, etc. will be uploaded in the website portal **www.ireps.gov.in** only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.
Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical)/Salem
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

ARMY WELFARE EDUCATION SOCIETY (AWES)
ADMISSION NOTICE : B Sc (NURSING) DEGREE COURSE
Online Applications invited for Admission Test to B Sc (Nursing) Degree Course at Army Institute of Nursing (AIN),Guwahati and Army College of Nursing (ACN), Jalandhar Cantt. Both colleges recognised by Indian Nursing Council, New Delhi.
Army Institute of Nursing (AIN), Guwahati. Affiliated to Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences, Assam. Address : C/O 151 Base Hospital, Basistha, Guwahati, PIN-781029, Assam. Mob No : 69012-99910. Website : www.ainguwahati.org E-mail: ainguwahati@yahoo.co.in / ain@awesindia.edu.in No of Seats : 50.Qualification : Candidates must have passed 10+2 in the first attempt with minimum 50% marks each in Physics, Chemistry, Biology and English.
Eligibility Criteria : 90% seats exclusively reserved for daughters of Serving and Retired Army Personnel and 10% seats reserved for civilian female Candidates of North East (NE) States.
Army College of Nursing (ACN), Jalandhar Cantt. Affiliated to Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot. Address : Deep Nagar, Jalandhar Cantt, PIN-144005. Tele/Fax : 0181-2266167,2660080 Website : www.acn.co.in E-mail : acn_mh@yahoo.co.in No of seats : 60. Qualification : 10+2 with Physics, Chemistry and Biology with minimum 45% aggregate marks.
Eligibility Criteria: Admission Exclusively for daughters of serving and retired Army Personnel.
Date of Online Admission Test (AIN & ACN) : 09 Jul 2022
How to Apply? Prospectus may be downloaded from respective college website.Candidates to apply online only on AIN website (www.ainguwahati.org) wef 02 Jun 2022 to 25 Jun 2022.
Application Fee : Rs 1,000/- for each institution (online payment only)
Notes: Candidates to apply for each institution (AIN and ACN), if desirous to be considered for more than one institution.
No Offline Applications / Documents will be accepted.

कार्यालय अति. मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग टोंक
क्रमांक: 537-548 दिनांक: 24/5/2022
निविदा सूचना संख्या: 03/2022-23
राजस्थान के सामरकाल मोटर्स की ओर से बजट घोषणा वर्ष 2022-23 के अन्तर्गत समाई माधोपुर, दौसा जिलों में एस.एच./एन.डी.आर./अंतर्राज्यीय सड़कों का सुदृढ़ीकरण एवं चौड़ाईकरण के कुल 5 कार्य हेतु मय 5 पीच वर्क की सिंगल लाईनिंगटो सहित उपयुक्त क्षेत्रों में मार्गवर्जिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान एवं राज्य सरकार के अन्य विभागों तथा केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के "ए" एवं "एए" श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से कार्य हेतु ई-टेण्डरिंग के माध्यम से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में प्रस्ताव की जावेगी। निविदा से संबंधित विवरण पोर्टलसाईट साईट www.dipronline.org व www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।
NIB code PWD2223A0534
PWD2223WLOB01855
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PWD2223WLOB01859
(आर.एस. बैरवा)
अति. मुख्य अभियन्ता
स्वा.वि. संभाग टोंक
DIPR/C/7297/2022

MYSORE PAINTS & VARNISH LTD.,
(A Govt., of Karnataka Undertaking)
New Bannimantap Extension, MYSURU-570 015
Date: 31.05.2022
SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATIONS
Re-Tenders are invited through e-procurement Portal **(https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)** as below.
Sl.No. 01.**Short term re-tender notification Number: (a)** MPVL/2021-22/IND459/CALL-3. **(b)** MPVL/2022-23/IND460/CALL-2. **(c)** MPVL/2022-23/IND461/CALL-2. **(d)** MPVL/2022-23/IND462/CALL-2. **Last Date & Time for submission of Tender / Bids:** 08.06.2022 **Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening:** 10.06.2022
Interested parties may visit **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
For Mysore Paints and Varnish Ltd.,
Sd/- TIA / General Manager (Admin)

Maharashtra advises caution as cases surge

State mulls mask mandate as CM appeals for self-discipline

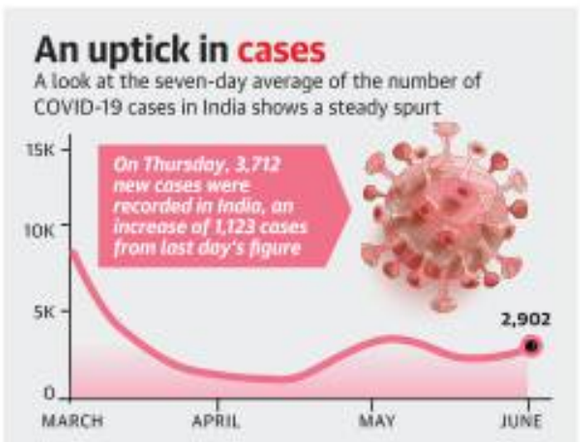
STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

As the number of COVID-19 cases rise in Maharashtra, the State is thinking of making wearing of masks mandatory, and has appealed to people to wear them in crowded places.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Thursday evening held a meeting with the State COVID-19 Task Force to discuss the scenario. "I appeal to citizens to voluntarily observe discipline, wear mask, get vaccinated and maintain distancing," he said.

He said there was a possibility of an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases, and it would thus be important for people to voluntarily follow all the guidelines.

Mr. Thackeray directed that field COVID hospitals be kept ready and structural audits conducted for preparedness.


An uptick in cases
A look at the seven-day average of the number of COVID-19 cases in India shows a steady spurt
On Thursday, 3,712 new cases were recorded in India, an increase of 1,123 cases from last day's figure
15K
10K
5K
0
2,902
MARCH
APRIL
MAY
JUNE

New cases in State

Maharashtra on Thursday recorded 1,045 new COVID infections and one death, taking the active tally to 4,559. The State's caseload stands at 78,89,212, and death toll at 1,47,861.

State Health Secretary Pradeep Vyas, who gave a detailed presentation on the situation during the meeting, said Maharashtra reported the lowest number of active cases (626) on April 16, which had risen to over 4,500 on Thursday.

Mumbai, which added 704 cases during the day, Thane, Pune and some other urban areas are driving the surge and account for 97% of the tally.

Mumbai's positivity rate, or cases detected per 100 tests, stood at 6%, double that of the State, which was 3%.

India recorded 3,712 new coronavirus infections in the 24 hours to 8 a.m. on Thursday, an increase of 1,123 cases from the previous day's figure. The total number of active cases increased to 19,509, the Union Health Ministry said. Five deaths have been reported from Kerala, the Ministry said.

The daily positivity rate is 0.84% and the weekly positivity rate 0.67%. The case fatality rate is at 1.22%.

(With inputs from PTI)

Blinken flags rising attacks in India

The U.S. Secretary of State releases report on International Religious Freedom

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON D.C.

India has seen an increase in attacks on people (due to religious intolerance) and places of worship, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Thursday.

"...In India, the world's largest democracy, and home to a great diversity of faiths, we've seen rising attacks on people and places of worship," Mr. Blinken said, as he released the State Department's 2021 Report on International Religious Freedom (IRF).

The Secretary also cited Vietnam and Nigeria as examples of countries where religious expression was being curtailed.

> ...In India, the world's largest democracy, and home to a great diversity of faiths, we've seen rising attacks on people and places of worship
>
> ANTONY BLINKEN
> U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE

Compiled by IRF

The report, which contains assessments of the state of religious freedom in countries in 2021, is compiled by the Department's IRF department, led by Rashad Hussain, the Ambassador for IRF.

The document is distinct from the IRF report released by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF).

In April, the Commission had recommended to the State Department, for the third year in a row, that India be classified as a 'Country of Particular Concern (CPC)', the category of countries with the worst records on religious freedom.

The State Department, which releases its CPC list towards the end of the calendar year, is not bound by the USCIRF recommendations and has not, in the last three years, categorised India as a CPC.

"As the Secretary stated, in India, some officials are ignoring or even supporting rising attacks on people and places of worship," Mr. Hussain said on Thursday.

In another set of examples of countries with restrictions on religious freedom, Mr. Blinken cited U.S. ally Saudi Arabia, as well as China, Pakistan and Afghanistan (where the Taliban have taken charge, following the U.S.'s chaotic exit in August last year).

Religious freedom is not just a fundamental right but a "vital foreign policy priority", Mr. Blinken said on Thursday. In April, during the U.S.-India "2+2" joint press conference of Defence and Foreign Ministers in Washington D.C., Mr Blinken had said the U.S. was tracking "recent concerning developments" with regard to human rights in India.

On Thursday, Mr. Bliken cited Morocco, Timor Leste, Taiwan and Iraq as examples of countries where progress had been made on religious freedom. Mr. Blinken said some countries were not respecting the "basic rights" of citizens – including by using apostasy and blasphemy laws and curtailing religious expression – such as by restricting religious attire.

"Attacks on members of religious minority communities, including killings, assaults, and intimidation, occurred throughout the year. These included incidents of 'cow vigilantism' against non-Hindus based on allegations of cow slaughter or trade in beef," the India segment of the report said.

The India segment also highlights anti-conversion laws in the country, noting that 28 States have these laws and the arrests made under them. It also notes that several State governments announced plans to introduce anti-conversion laws. However, some State-level courts had dismissed charges, the report notes, brought against individuals allegedly converting others for the purposes of marriage.

"The police arrested non-Hindus for making comments in the media or on social media that were considered offensive to Hindus or Hinduism," it noted.

"Suspected terrorists targeted and killed civilians and migrants from the Hindu and Sikh minorities, including Hindu migrant labourers from Bihar," in J&K, the report says, adding that as per reports, this caused extensive fear in the Hindu and Sikh communities, leading to an exodus of migrants from the area.

Tomato prices become a hot potato

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Retail prices of tomatoes skyrocketed up to ₹77 a kg in metro cities other than Delhi on Wednesday likely from a tight supply of the produce, according to data. The price was at more than ₹100 a kg in Port Blair, Shillong, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta on Wednesday.

Consumer Affairs Ministry data show that the price rose from ₹25 a kg on April 30 to ₹77 a kg in on June 1 in Kolkata. In Mumbai, the price rose to ₹74 on June 1 from ₹36 on May 1, while in Chennai, it rose to ₹62 from ₹47 during the period.

In Delhi, the price was ₹39 a kg, rising from ₹30 a kg.

The prices in key producing States – Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra – have shot up significantly and is ruling between ₹50 and ₹100 a kg in different cities, the data show. Traders and experts attribute the rise to a likely tight supply from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

The average all India retail price of tomato showed an increase of over 77%.

Some exceptions to bungalow rules

'Govt. may regularise occupation'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri on Thursday said that in some cases, the government "regularises" the continued occupation of bungalows by those who got "another job". The Minister was responding to a question on why former Congress Rajya Sabha member Ghulam Nabi Azad had retained his official accommodation.

Hardeep Puri

Mr. Puri, however, did not comment on any individual case. Mr. Azad, who was the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha till his retirement in February 2021, has continued to occupy the 5 South Avenue Lane house that was allotted to him while he was an MP.

At a press conference, Mr. Puri said, "There are some others also. Slowly, they are going. We also regularise." He said if someone was staying in a bungalow, "and then gets another, so we regularise it. But I don't think I should comment on individual cases."

Not named on list

Mr. Azad's name did not figure on the recent list of Congress candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections. He has been among the "G-23" ginger group of Congress leaders who have demanded reforms within the party. Over the past two or three months, the Directorate of Estates under the Ministry has undertaken a spree of evictions.

The family of late Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, former Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, and several others have been evicted.

Meanwhile, asked about the BJP continuing to occupy bungalows on Ashoka Road after constructing its own headquarters on Deen Dayal Upadhaya Marg, Mr. Puri indicated that the BJP's and other parties' offices would move out of bungalows. "It is in process. It will involve all political parties. It's in pipeline," he said.

Liquid mirror telescope in Devasthal sees first light

Once trained using AI tools, the telescope can help track transients such as supernovae, space debris and meteorites

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN
CHENNAI

The four-metre International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) saw the first light recently, gazing out from its vantage on Devasthal, a hill in Uttarakhand, into the deep sky.

The telescope, staring at the sky overhead, will make sky surveys possible and obtain images that can help observe transient phenomena such as supernovae and record the presence of space debris or meteorites – basically, watch the skies.

The telescope has been built by a collaboration of scientists from Canada, Belgium and India. It is located at an altitude of 2,450 metres on the Devasthal Observatory campus of the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) in Nainital district, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

A large pool of mercury placed in a vessel is spun around so fast that it curves into a parabolic shape. Since mercury is reflective, this shape helps in focusing the reflected light. A thin sheet of mylar protects the mercury from the wind.

The primary mirror of the International Liquid Mirror Telescope at Devasthal.

"It was thrilling to see the formation of the primary mirror. Nearly 50 litres of mercury, weighing close to 700 kilograms, is spun hard to form a paraboloid mirror of just 4 mm thickness and a diameter of about 4 metres," says Kuntal Misra, Project Investigator at ARIES. She has worked in this project since January 2020.

First image

The first image made by the telescope consisted of several stars and a galaxy, NGC 4274, which is 45 million light years away.

The telescope, having a primary mirror that is liquid, cannot be turned and pointed in any direction. It "stares" at the zenith and watches the sky as the earth rotates, thereby giving a view of different objects.

This property can be used to scan and survey the sky, observe transients and moving objects such as meteorites.

It will work in tandem with the existing 3.6-metre Devasthal Optical Telescope.

Once it starts making observations, the telescope will collect gigabytes of data, which will need to be analysed using artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI and ML) tools.

"In a night's observation, it will make thousands of images which cannot be analysed by just looking at them. We will need to develop and train AI and ML tools to do this," says Dipankar Banerjee, Director of the ARIES Observatory.

With the monsoon expected soon in the area, the real observations may start only in October, after the rains, according to Dr. Banerjee.

Blast on tracks to alert loco pilots may stop soon

Employees call for stopping use of detonators

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

The Indian Railways may soon dispense with the decades-old practice of the crew using detonator signals to alert loco pilots of an approaching train to an obstruction or danger lying ahead.

During train accidents or inclement weather affecting visibility, the loco pilot, train manager or stationmaster place detonators on the track at different locations that will cause explosions with a loud bang when a train passes on them.

This is to alert the loco pilot of the approaching train to an obstruction such as a derailed train, boulders and a damaged track to bring the train to a halt.

Advanced gadgets

In recent times, employees' unions have been calling for stopping the concept of detonating signals considering the advancement in technology and the use of gadgets such as anti-collision devices, train protection warning system, short circuiting clips, fog signal device and auxiliary warning system.

The argument of the staff is that the Explosive Substances Act prohibited them from possessing explosives in public places and they were being harassed by security personnel while carrying the detonators on duty in trains.

They also claimed that detonators had been hardly used during train operations for many years and hence may be dispensed from the general rules.

The railway employees said dispensing with detonator signals would also reduce the weight of the essential equipment carried by loco pilots and train managers.

Monetary savings

The Western Railway agreed with the contention of the crew and recommended that considering the redundant use of detonators and advancement of technology at field level, it would be prudent to dispense the explosives from the safety equipment of loco pilots and train managers. This would also lead to a huge monetary and manpower saving.

Acting on the proposal of the Western Railway, the Ministry of Railways has written to all Zonal Railways calling for their views on the operational and safety aspects of withdrawing detonator signals. "The concept of detonator signals is likely to be dispensed soon," a railway official said.

ATS arrests man for 'links' with LeT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

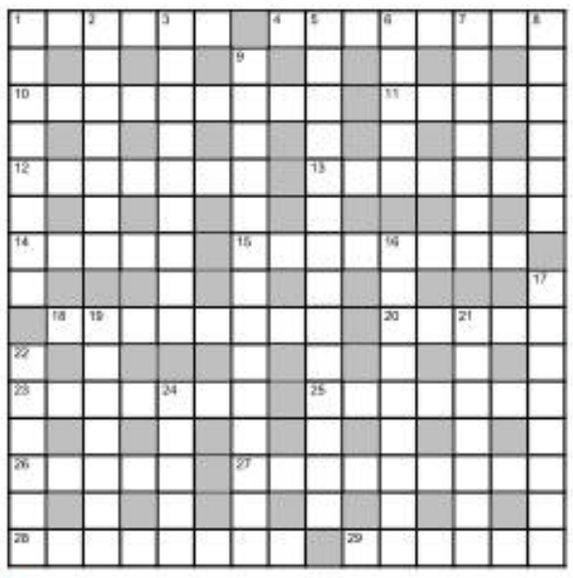
The Anti-Terrorism Squad of the Maharashtra police on Thursday arrested Aftab Hussain Shah from J&K's Kishtwar for alleged links with Junaid Mohammed, who is accused of recruiting youngsters for Lashkar-e-Taiba. He is allegedly the link between Mr. Mohammed and an LeT operative "based in a foreign country".

TH CROSSWORD + 13573

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN



ACROSS

1 Name a painter in Japan (6)
4 Like the cream, most in the middle may be dangerous to handle (8)
10 What the Twitterati did about the credit (9)
11 In the middle of 'Great Escape' it happened (5)
12 Ancient deity had swallowed the Sun, perhaps (7)
13 A gunshot rings and there is an African (7)
14 Dog reared in Big Rock, Virginia (5)
15 After a short round, approval to get flower (8)
18 "It's amusing to have some booze", you hear this before an important announcement (4,4)
20 Native said "start with fifty, not five" (5)
23 Capital is large, perhaps (7)
25 Collect butter and gin, back in defensive position (7)
26 Showing interest in additional wavy patterns... (5)
27 ...or hop around home rule (9)
28 Minister briefly cut down to four lines of satire (8)
29 Land, building and some money, they will remain after he goes (6)

DOWN

1 Can keep husband in, once free will go around – not possible (2,6)
2 After midnight refuse to shine (7)
3 Element of delight expressed turns bitter within (9)
5 Pinnacle, not long but short compound (6,8)
6 Clyster's close to one, voice of approval grows (5)
7 Old sewing machine operator let off without study (7)
8 It represents change in Thailand (6)
9 Frank Rogers concedes these rules are for pedestrian safety (5,5,4)
16 The French man in lead, perhaps for a formal dance (9)
17 Smooth attempt to get energy from soft soap (8)
19 Boy engulfed by passion for music (7)
21 Ghastly child, learn to reform (7)
22 Hard surface, indeed roughly demarcated (6)
24 Extract tapped up from lime/lemon trees (5)

SUDOKU

		1			4			
	9	3	5		1			
		6		3				9
	5			7	6		4	
		2				8		
	4		1	2			7	
8				6		5		
			3		9	7	1	
			7			6		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13572

C	C	O	U	B	B	P	J	
R	W	A	N	D	A	N	U	K
R	A	I	N	E	I	N	I	F
M	A	D	O	N	N	A	P	A
G	E	A	N	T	E	I	I	A
S	I	A	L	D	E	B	A	R
A	N	N	A	T	E	S	U	T
T	E	O	A	C	R	O	B	A
T	O	M	I	C	R	O	N	N
E	S	A	N	T	R	A	W	L
I	N	C	L	E	M	E	N	T
I	L	E	L	A	L	I	G	L
I	M	P	S	E	L	A	G	G
A	M	O	S	A	N	A	A	P
I	N	O	T	I	C	E	D	I
M	P	A	S	S	E	E	S	K
S	S	E	E	R				

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	3	7	5	4	9	2	8	1
9	5	1	2	6	8	3	7	4
8	4	2	7	1	3	6	9	5
1	9	4	8	3	6	5	2	7
3	7	8	9	5	2	1	4	6
2	6	5	4	7	1	9	3	8
7	1	9	3	8	5	4	6	2
4	2	6	1	9	7	8	5	3
5	8	3	6	2	4	7	1	9

FAITH

Appearance of Dhanvantari

Lord Dhanvantari emerged from the milky ocean when it was churned, showing that Dhanvantari avatara took place in Krita yuga, elaborated Velukkudi Krishnan in a discourse. Lord Dhanavantri is an amsa of Lord Narayana. A Vishnu Purana sloka, describing Lord Dhanvantari's appearance, says He was wearing a yellow garment and a white upper garment (uttareeya). This sloka says He had a nectar pot in one hand and a kamandala in the other.

In the Srirangam temple, there is a separate shrine for Lord Dhanvantari. To one side of this shrine is the Paramapada entrance. Opposite is the Chandra Pushkarini. The Dhanvantari shrine in Srirangam is at an elevation. There is a reason for this. A vaidya sala functioned here. The Cauvery river was often in spate, and at such times, water would enter the temple. In order that patients should have access to treatment facilities even at such times, the Dhanvantari shrine was built at a higher level. Herbal decoctions from this shrine were offered to Lord Ranganatha, the main deity in the Srirangam temple. The Dhanvantari image in the Srirangam temple is seen with conch and discus in the upper hands. The lower right hand holds the pot of nectar. The lower left hand holds a leech. Leeches were used in the past in treatment of diseases. It was believed that they would suck out impurities in the blood. Dhanvantari learnt the nuances of medical science from Garuda.

While Dhanvantari first emerged from the ocean, He was later born in the royal family of Varanasi. This second avatara was foretold by Lord Narayana when Dhanvantari first appeared. The Lord said Dhanvantari would be born as son of king of Varanasi and that He would organise Ayurveda into 8 divisions and do good for the inhabitants of the earth.

Russia tightens grip on Ukrainian city

Lavrov says the U.S. supply of rockets raises the risk of a 'third country' being dragged into the conflict

REUTERS
KYIV

Russian forces were attempting to extend and consolidate their hold on Ukraine's industrial city of Severodonetsk on Thursday, edging closer to claiming a big prize in their offensive in the eastern Donbas region.

But in a boost for Ukraine, the U.S. announced a $700 million weapons package for Kyiv that will include advanced rocket systems with a range of up to 80 km.

Russia accused the U.S. of adding "fuel to the fire". Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the supply of the rocket launchers raised the risk of a "third country" being dragged into the conflict.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Ukraine had promised it would not use the systems to hit targets inside Russia. President Joe Biden hopes extending Ukraine's artillery reach will help push Russia to negotiate an end to the war, which on Friday marks its 100th day.

Void future: Ruins of a school in Kharkiv, partially destroyed by a rocket on Thursday. • AFP

After days of heavy fighting around Severodonetsk, much of which has been laid to waste by Russian bombardment, Russian troops were inching forward through city streets. Ukraine says about 70% of the city is under Russian control, with Russian troops in the city centre.

"The enemy is conducting assault operations in the settlement of Sievierodonetsk," Ukraine's armed forces General Staff said on Thursday, adding that Russian forces were also attacking in other parts of the east and northeast. At least four civilians were killed and 10 wounded in the east and northeast, other officials said.

If Russia fully captures Severodonetsk and its smaller twin Lysychansk on the west bank of the Siverskyi Donets river, it would hold all of Luhansk, one of two provinces in the Donbas that Moscow claims on behalf of separatists.

Britain's Defence Ministry said in its daily intelligence update that Russia controlled most of the city, which before the war had a population of about 101,000, and that Ukrainian forces had destroyed bridges over the river to Lysychansk.

Capturing all of Luhansk would fulfil one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's main aims and solidify a shift in battlefield momentum after his forces were pushed back from the capital Kyiv and from northern Ukraine.

Luhansk's regional Governor, Serhiy Gaidai, told Reuters that civilians were sheltering from Russian attacks under a Sievierodonetsk chemical plant that he said was hit by an air strike on Tuesday, releasing a large pink cloud. "There are civilians there in bomb shelters, there are quite a few of them left," Mr. Gaidai said.

Mr. Gaidai has warned that Ukrainian troops in Severodonetsk could be forced to retreat to Lysychansk, which he said was easier to defend from its vantage on a hill.

Besides the advanced rocket systems, called HIMARS, the new U.S. package includes ammunition, counter fire radars, air surveillance radars, additional Javelin anti-tank missiles and anti-armour weapons, officials said.

Modi assures Sri Lanka of immediate fertilizer supply

'Swift arrival of consignment critical to production cycle'

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured Sri Lanka of immediate supply of fertilizer, the Sri Lankan President has said, as the island braces for a food crisis amid a crushing economic meltdown.

"President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has said that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has agreed to provide the fertilizer required for the Yala season cultivation immediately," Mr. Rajapaksa's office said. The fertilizer will be supplied under an "Indian loan facility" and is scheduled to be distributed to farmers within 20 days after the consignment arrives, according to a statement issued on Wednesday night.

India is yet to make any official statement in this regard. Official sources told *The Hindu* that New Delhi is considering the request from Colombo and "discussions are on".

Faced with a dollar crunch for months, Sri Lanka has been struggling to pay for essential imports, including food, medicines, fuel, and LPG. As the island's crisis further escalated this year, India extended crucial assistance, of about $3.5 billion, by way of credit lines for imports, loan deferments, and currency swaps.

On whether the fertilizer would be supplied as part of existing credit lines, or with a new one, an Indian official said: "Those details are still being worked out." The fertilizer is essential to domestic production as sowing season begins for the Yala season, one of two important agriculture production cycles in Sri Lanka, tied to the monsoon. Especially after the harvest from the previous season has drastically fallen, owing to President Gotabaya's controversial policy shift to organic farming last year.

In a bid to reduce the country's import bill, Mr. Gotabaya in May 2021 banned chemical fertilizers, calling for an abrupt switch to green agriculture that farmers were not prepared for.

The overnight ban on chemical fertilizers severely affected production of paddy, pulses, maize, spices, and tea that are crucial for both domestic consumption, and export earnings.

Seeing their harvest fall by 50 %, many farmers have decided not to sow this season. Despite a policy reversal by the President – after massive farmer protests and criticism from scientists – fertilizers are still in short supply, or not affordable without subsidy, especially when costs of all basic items have spiked with the country reporting record inflation.

Sri Lanka is now counting the swift arrival of a 65,000 tonne-fertilizer consignment from India worth about $25 million, according to M.B. Rohana Pushpakumara, Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture.

"We have requested for nitrogen fertilizer, which will be critical for the current paddy and maize growing season. Farmers will have to use fertilizer 14, 28, and 35 days after sowing the seeds," he told *The Hindu*.

Israeli troops kill another Palestinian

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
RAMALLAH

Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian during a clash in the West Bank on Thursday, the third Palestinian killed in the occupied territory in 24 hours, the health ministry said.

The violence erupted in the Dheisheh refugee camp near Bethlehem, a ministry statement said, identifying the dead man as Ayman Muhaisen, 29.

The army said troops had entered Dheisheh to arrest a Palestinian "suspected of terrorist activities" and were met with volleys of petrol bombs.

Rushdie on Queen's honours list

Over 40 British Indians to be honoured to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

Salman Rushdie, the Mumbai-born author of the Booker Prize-winning novel *Midnight's Children*, leads a list of over 40 professionals and community champions of Indian-origin to be honoured in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Queen Elizabeth II, along with the Royal Family members, watches the jubilee celebrations, in London. • REUTERS

Mr. Rushdie is named a Companion of Honour, an exclusive club with membership limited to just 65 people at any given time, for services to literature in a list released on Wednesday night as the Jubilee Honours to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years of service to the U.K. "It's a privilege to be included in such illustrious company, both past and present," said the 74-year-old author, who was the subject of a *fatwa* by Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini for his controversial novel *The Satanic Verses* over 30 years ago.

The Companion of Honour is a special award granted to those who have made a major contribution to the arts, science, medicine, or government lasting over a long period of time.

Others honoured with some of the higher royal awards coinciding with celebrations include a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for Avnish Mitter Goyal, Chair of Care England, for services to social care and philanthropy.

Officers of the Order of the British Empire (OBEs) include hotelier Kishorkant (Vinu) Bhattessa for charitable and voluntary services, particularly during COVID-19, and Liverpool headteacher Rohit Naik for services to education.

Gunman kills 4 in mass shooting

They were at a medical building in Tulsa, say authorities

ASSOCIATED PRESS
OKLAHOMA (U.S.)

A gunman carrying a rifle and a handgun killed four people at a Tulsa medical building on a hospital campus in Oklahoma in the U.S., the police said. He had gone there to kill a doctor who he blamed for back pain he felt after surgery, authorities said on Thursday. Authorities found a letter on the gunman that made it clear that the attack was targeted.

The victims and gunman in Tulsa were found on the second floor of a medical office where an orthopedic clinic is located, police said. The shooter, whose name has not been released, died from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound, Tulsa Police Department Deputy Chief Eric Dalgleish said.

The spate of recent gun violence across the country, including the killing of 19 children and two teachers at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde by an 18-year-old gunman carrying an AR-style semi-automatic rifle, has led to Democrats amplifying their calls for greater restrictions on guns, while Republicans are emphasizing more security at schools.

Nepal tightens flight rules after crash that killed 22

Planes will be allowed to take off only in favourable weather

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KATHMANDU

Flights in Nepal will be cleared to fly only if there is favourable weather forecast throughout their route, according to new regulations announced in the wake of a recent crash that killed 22 people, officials said Thursday.

A full investigation into the crash of the Twin Otter aircraft is underway, but a preliminary inquiry suggested that bad weather caused the accident.

Aviation companies have raised concerns about how to implement the new regulations, citing the country's limited weather forecasting infrastructure.

Authorities say flight permits will now only be issued after the aircraft's operator submits a flight plan with weather information for the destination and the entire route of the flight, according to a Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal notice issued on Tuesday. Providing en-route weather information was previously not mandatory.

Air operators could also be prohibited from conducting flights if the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology forecasts adverse weather conditions for a certain time in any area. They say Nepal lacks infrastructure for accurate weather forecasts, especially in remote areas.

Jury sides mostly with Johnny Depp in libel case

ASSOCIATED PRESS
FAIRFAX

A jury sided on Wednesday with Johnny Depp in his libel lawsuit against ex-wife Amber Heard, awarding the "Pirates of the Caribbean" actor more than $10 million and vindicating his allegations that Ms. Heard lied about Mr. Depp abusing her before and during their brief marriage.

But in a split decision, the jury also found that Ms. Heard was defamed by one of Mr. Depp's lawyers, who accused her of creating a detailed hoax that included roughing up the couple's apartment to look worse for police. The jury awarded her $2 million.

The verdicts bring an end to a televised trial that Mr. Depp had hoped would help restore his reputation, though it turned into a spectacle that offered a window into a vicious marriage.

Mr. Depp, who was not in court Wednesday, said "the jury gave me my life back. I am truly humbled."

China forbids U.S. trade talks with Taiwan

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIJING

China's government on Thursday accused Washington of jeopardizing peace after the U.S. envoys began trade talks with Taiwan aimed at deepening relations with the self-ruled island democracy claimed by Beijing.

Trade dialogues "disrupt peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait," said a foreign ministry spokesman, Zhao Lijian.

ODISHA STATE MEDICAL CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Office: Convent Square, In front of Ram Mandir, Bhubaneswar-751 001, Odisha
Website: www.osmcl.nic.in ; e-mail: rec.osmcl@nic.in

Advertisement for Recruitment

No.01 / OSMCL/HR/2022 Date : 31.05.2022

Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd. (OSMCL), Bhubaneswar invites online applications from eligible candidates for filling up the following vacant posts of the Corporation. For details of the post like scale of pay, eligibility criteria selection modalities, general instructions / information, guideline for filling up of the online application form, mode etc., the applicants may visit the **"online recruitment" section** of OSMCL website - **www.osmcl.nic.in.**

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Total nos. of Posts	Reservation Category	Scale of Pay (Pay Band) & Grade Pay
1.	Sr. Pharmacist (Warehouse)	12	UR - 3 (W-1), ST- 9 (W-3)	As per GA &PG Deptt. Notification No. 28626, dated 27.10.2021: Rs 25,300/-
2.	Jr. Pharmacist (Warehouse)	12	UR (W) - 1 SC - 3 (W-1) ST - 8 (W-4)	As per GA &PG Deptt. Notification No. 28621, dated 27.10.2021: Rs 14,200/-
3.	Jr. Pharmacist (Quality Assurance)	2	UR - 1 UR (W) -1	As per GA &PG Deptt. Notification No. 28621, dated 27.10.2021: Rs 14,200/-

Interested applicants must fill up the online application form and upload the supporting documents in the "Online Recruitment" section of OSMCL website **www.osmcl.nic.in.** Submission of online application forms will close on **21.06.2022, 11:59 PM.**

After filling up of the online application form, applicants must download the application forms, sign the same and send them along with the supporting self-attested documents **only by speed post / registered post** to the following address:

***Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, 751001* on or before 30.06.2022, 5:30 PM.**

Last date of receipt of applications and documents by speed post / registered post is 30.06.2022, 5:30 PM. Any application received by speed post / registered post after **30.06.2022 ; 5:30 PM** will be rejected.

Envelopes must be superscribed with the name of the post applied for along with the applicant's application number.

Sd/- Managing Director
Odisha State Medical Corporation

CAD-673 OIPR-10112/11/0012/2223

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMC)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751 001
Tel.:(0674) 2380600; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in, Email: proc.osmcl.od@nic.in
Notification No.3700 / OSMCL / 2022 Date : 01.06.2022

NOTICE INVITING E - TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF ORTHOPAEDICS INSTRUMENT SETS UNDER MUKHYA MANTRI BAYU SWASTHYA SEBA

Online Bids through **e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)** are invited from eligible bidders for supply, installation & commissioning of Equipments as per the particulars mentioned below :

Sl.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive of GST (Rs.)
1.	OSMCL/2022-23/ORTHO-INSTRUMENTS/03	Supply of Orthopaedics Instrument Sets Under Mukhya Mantri Bayu Swasthya Seba	5,600/-

Sl.No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	01.06.2022, 5 PM	
2.	Date & time of **Pre-bid** query submission through e-mail	On or Before 04.06.2022, 5 PM E-mail : proc.osmcl.od@nic.in	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		08.06.2022, 11 AM	22.06.2022, 5 PM
4.	Date & time of online Technical Bid Opening	24.06.2022, 4 PM	
5.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: **www.osmcl.nic.in** and **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. The Authority reserves the right to accept/reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

By the Order's of Managing Director, OSMCL
Sd/-
GM Operations (Equipment), OSMCL

CAD-679 OIPR-10112/11/0013/2223

ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION-2022 (OJEE-2022)

Schedule for OJEE - 2022

No: OJEE / 246 Date: 01.06.2022

CORRIGENDUM TO THE OJEE NOTICE NO. 245 DATED 31.05.22 AND CORRECTED SCHEDULE FOR OJEE - 2022

In partial correction to the OJEE schedule, published yesterday in newspapers vide Notice No. OJEE/245 dated 31.05.2022, the corrected schedule for OJEE-2022 is as follows :

Exam Date	Shift - 1 9.00 AM - 11.00 AM	Shift - 2 12.30 PM - 2.30 PM	Shift - 3 4.00 PM - 6.00 PM
04.07.2022	LE Tech (Diploma)	LE Tech (Diploma)	LE Tech (Diploma)
05.07.2022	MCA / M.Sc. (Comp Sc.)	MCA / M.Sc. (Comp Sc.)	M.Tech (11 Subjects) + M.Arch + M. Plan + M. Pharm + B.CAT (1 hour) (Cinematography and Sound Recording & Design)
06.07.2022	MBA	MBA	(1 Hour Duration) Integrated MBA + LE Pharm + LE Tech (B.Sc.) + B.CAT (Film Editing)
08.07.2022	B.Pharm	B.Pharm	----

Admit cards will be available for downloading with effect from 27.06.2022.

Sd/-
Chairman, OJEE

h-57 : OIPR-14020/11/0007/2223

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, मदुरै
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Madurai (Tamil Nadu)
Under PMSSY Division, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India
JIPMER, Puducherry - Mentor Institute
Ph: 0413-2296636, 0413-2296025 e-mail: aimsmadurai.fac@gmail.com

No.JIP/Admn.4/AIIMS-MDU/Fac./2022 **ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE** Date: 03.06.2022

Online applications are invited from eligible Indian nationals for filling various faculty posts on regular basis at **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Madurai**, Tamil Nadu, an apex healthcare institute established by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana. **JIPMER, Puducherry has been designated as the Mentor Institute for AIIMS, Madurai.** The details are as follows:

No.	Department	Professor	Additional Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor	Total
1	Anaesthesiology	1 OBC	1 ST	1 UR	1 UR, 1 OBC	5
2	Anatomy	1 EWS (PwBD)	1 SC	1 UR	1 UR, 1 OBC	5
3	Biochemistry	1 OBC	1 OBC	1 OBC	1 UR, 1 SC	5
4	Community & Family Medicine	1 UR	1 UR	1 OBC	1 OBC, 1 SC, 1 ST, 1 EWS	7
5	Dermatology	1 OBC	1 UR	1 UR	1 UR	4
6	ENT	1 UR	1 OBC (PwBD)	1 UR	1 UR	4
7	Forensic Medicine & Toxicology	1 UR	--	1 OBC	1 OBC	3
8	General Medicine	1 SC	--	1 UR	1 OBC, 1 SC	4
9	General Surgery	1 UR	1 SC	1 SC	1 UR, 1 OBC	5
10	Hospital Administration	1 UR	--	1 OBC	--	2
11	Microbiology	1 SC	1 OBC	1 EWS	1 UR, 1 OBC (PwBD)	5
12	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1 OBC	1 OBC	1 OBC	1 OBC, 1 SC	5
13	Ophthalmology	1 UR	1 SC	1 UR	1 OBC, 1 ST	5
14	Orthopaedics	1 UR	1 ST	1 SC	1 UR	4
15	Paediatrics	1 SC	1 OBC	1 EWS	1 UR	4
16	Pathology	1 OBC	1 UR	1 UR	1 UR, 1 OBC, 1 SC	6
17	Pharmacology	1 EWS	1 UR	1 UR (PwBD)	1 OBC, 1 ST	5
18	Physiology	1 UR	1 SC	1 OBC	1 UR, 1 OBC	5
19	Psychiatry	1 UR	1 OBC	1 SC	1 OBC	4
20	Radiology (Radio-Diagnosis)	--	1 EWS	1 ST	1 EWS	3
21	Trauma & Emergency	1 OBC	--	--	1 UR, 1 OBC, 1 EWS	4
	Total Posts	20	17	20	37	94

Note: 1. The number of vacancies is subject to variation. The reservations are in accordance with DoPT OM No. 36039/1/2019-Estt (Res.) dt. 31.01.2019, the notification dt. 12.07.2019 issued by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (now M/o Education) and the provisions of Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' cadre) Act 2019. As per the Gazette Notification dt. 04.01.2021 of the GoI, **4% horizontal reservation** i.e., four (4) posts across four Departments namely (i) Professor of Anatomy - 01 EWS, (ii) Additional Professor of ENT - 01 OBC, (iii) Associate Professor of Pharmacology - 01 UR and (iv) Assistant Professor of Microbiology - 01 OBC are reserved for **PwBD. 2.** The **place of posting initially will be at Government Medical College, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu** (Temporary location of AIIMS-Madurai) and shall be transferred based on the progress of the project of AIIMS, Madurai.

The details regarding pay scale, age, qualification, experience and other conditions of eligibility etc. are available on **www.jipmer.edu.in** and **jipmer.edu.in/aiims-madurai**. **In addition to the online submitted application**, the applicant must submit the soft copy and hard copy of the online submitted application along with all certificates / enclosures / documents as per the instructions in the detailed advertisement available on the website. The **closing date** for submission of **online application is 18.07.2022 (Monday)** by 04.30 PM.

Executive Director, AIIMS, Madurai

ODISHA
Department of Tourism
Government of Odisha
Paryatan Bhawan, Lewis Road, Bhubaneswar, 751014
Phone: (0674) 243 2177 / Fax: (0674) - 243887
https://dot.odishatourism.gov.in

No. 4775 /TSM
TCT-TSP-MISC-0021-2022 Date: 01.06.2022

TENDER NOTICE

"Selection of an agency for Public Relation, Multimedia Content Development & Digital/Social Media Marketing for Department of Tourism, Government of Odisha".

Department of Tourism, Government of Odisha invites proposals from prospective applicants for **"Selection of an agency for Public Relation, Multimedia Content Development & Digital/Social Media Marketing for Department of Tourism, Government of Odisha".**

Interested bidders may download the RFP document from tender section of Department of Tourism website - https://odishatourism.gov.in/content/tourism/en/dot/quickLinks/tender.html

Due date and time for submission of bids: **3:00 PM on 28.06.2022**

Sd/- Director & Addl. Secretary to Govt.

R-01 OIPR-37001/11/0001/2223

MARKET WATCH

	02-06-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	55,818	0.79
US Dollar	77.60	-0.12
Gold	50,887	0.74
Brent oil	117.4	0.16

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	748.45	11.55
Apollo Hosp	3645.25	-193.75
Asian Paints	2908.55	56.05
Axis Bank	691.55	5.50
Bajaj Auto	3688.70	-31.40
Bajaj Finserv	12936.00	339.40
Bajaj Finance	6057.85	47.70
Bharti Airtel	695.95	1.30
BPCL	329.35	3.35
Britannia Ind	3577.05	25.75
Cipla	987.10	3.55
Coal India	198.20	2.15
Divis Lab	3524.35	-30.80
Dr Reddys Lab	4133.15	14.15
Eicher Motors	2723.55	-48.15
Grasim Ind	1432.55	-4.00
HCL Tech	1039.70	21.80
HDFC	2289.60	-40.30
HDFC Bank	1385.10	-9.75
HDFC Life	607.90	0.75
Hero MotoCorp	2863.10	-94.50
Hindalco	409.90	-0.75
Hind Unilever	2284.80	-23.65
ICICI Bank	749.75	-2.90
Indusind Bank	942.95	14.60
Infosys	1508.00	29.45
ITC	273.50	1.65
JSW Steel	573.40	3.90
Kotak Bank	1857.65	-7.45
L&T	1637.15	-10.85
M&M	1044.55	-2.80
Maruti Suzuki	7925.40	-14.00
Nestle India Ltd.	17393.80	152.25
NTPC	159.05	2.25
ONGC	152.45	2.70
PowerGrid Corp	225.55	-3.65
Reliance Ind	2724.30	90.80
SBI Life	1143.75	-9.00
State Bank	469.85	1.55
Shree Cement	21634.75	-156.75
Sun Pharma	859.55	20.30
Tata Consumer Products Ltd	758.25	-2.85
Tata Motors	439.15	-5.45
Tata Steel	1081.55	18.00
TCS	3423.00	67.80
Tech Mahindra	1146.00	-0.60
Titan	2220.95	23.35
UltraTech Cement	6007.85	32.20
UPL	775.35	-4.40
Wipro	474.15	3.40

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 02

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	77.41	77.73
Euro	82.78	83.13
British Pound	97.14	97.55
Japanese Yen (100)	59.66	59.90
Chinese Yuan	11.61	11.66
Swiss Franc	80.67	81.01
Singapore Dollar	56.30	56.54
Canadian Dollar	61.21	61.47
Malaysian Ringitt	17.63	17.71
Australian Dollar	55.73	55.97

Source: Indian Bank

NMDC iron ore output rises 14%, sales fall 20%

HYDERABAD

NMDC's iron ore output rose by more than 14% to 3.2 million tonnes (MT) in May, while sales at 2.65 MT fell almost 20% from May 2021.

Trade deficit widened to a record $23.33 bn last month

Exports rose 15.5%, imports surged 56.1% to stay above $60 bn for a third month

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

India's merchandise trade deficit widened to a record $23.33 billion in May, as exports grew 15.5% to $37.3 billion while imports jumped 56.1% to $60.62 billion, preliminary data from the Commerce and Industry Ministry show. The previous highest monthly trade deficit was November's $22.91 billion.

Goods exports shrank 7.2% from April's $40.19 billion, resulting in the trade deficit for the first two months of 2022-23 widening to $41.73 billion. The figure for April-May 2021 was $21.82 billion.

While petroleum exports, which surged 52.7% from May 2021, electronics (41.5%) and readymade textile garments (22.9%), led the export growth, the overall growth rate almost halved to an 8.1% pace once petroleum exports were excluded. May's 15.5% pace was also the slowest in 15 months.

Inflation impact: 'Imports will stay high in absolute terms as commodity prices see a renewed uptick.' •K. R. MUSTAFAH

This is the third month in a row that merchandise imports have crossed $60 billion, thanks to elevated commodity and oil prices amid the festering Russia-Ukraine conflict. Gold imports shot up almost ninefold year-on-year to cross $5.8 billion.

'Growth to moderate'

"With base effects catching up, the pace of growth of goods exports and then later, imports, is likely to moderate, while remaining high in absolute terms as commodity prices are seeing a renewed uptick," said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar. "We believe the merchandise trade deficit will print between $20 billion to $25 billion for most months of 2022-23," she added.

Petroleum imports almost doubled to $18.1 billion while coal imports more than doubled from May 2021 levels to $5.33 billion.

Retailers flag 'under-recoveries' on petrol, disesel sales: Puri

Oil firms report losses of ₹17.1/litre on petrol, ₹20.4 on diesel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

With fuel prices remaining unchanged for almost two months despite a rise in costs, oil companies have started detailing under-recoveries, or losses, which are as high as ₹17.1 per litre on petrol and ₹20.4 on diesel as of Thursday.

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said fuel retailers had knocked on the doors of the government seeking 'relief', but added that pricing was 'their decision'.

While refusing to comment on reports of private oil refiners making a killing on importing Russian crude oil at deep discounts and exporting refined petroleum products to the U.S., the Minister said the Finance Ministry was the appropriate authority to decide on the levy of a windfall tax on high gains the oil and gas producers are making due to the surge in international energy prices.

"All our corporate citizens have a sense of responsibility," he told a news conference. "These actions [revision in fuel prices] are taken by companies." Oil firms, he said, do not come to him for consultations on revising fuel prices.

Local pump rates are benchmarked to about $85 per barrel crude oil price while Brent is currently trading at $113. This has resulted in a gap between cost and selling price, referred to as under-recovery, or loss.

"They [oil firms] are talking under-recoveries... As I said, they are responsible corporate citizens and they will take whatever decision they have to," Mr. Puri said. "Yes they come to us, it is an open secret. They... say we need relief here, we need relief there but ultimately it [pricing] is their decision."

SBI unit raises GDP growth forecast to 7.5%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

SBI Research said the economy would grow 7.5% in 2022-23, an upward revision of 20 basis points from its earlier estimate. Economic growth, official data for which was released on Tuesday, was only 1.5% higher than the pre-pandemic year of FY20, it said.

"Given the high inflation and the subsequent, upcoming rate hikes, real GDP will incrementally [rise] by ₹11.1 lakh crore in FY23," SBI chief economist Soumya Kanti Ghosh said in a note on Thursday. "This... translates into real GDP growth of 7.5%." The unit said improving corporate financials, growing bank credit and ample liquidity spurred optimism.

UltraTech to invest ₹12,886 cr. in expansion

Company eyes 159.25 MTPA by FY25

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

UltraTech Cement said it would invest ₹12,886 crore in expanding capacity by 22.6 million tonnes per annum (MTPA). The board of directors of the Aditya Birla Group company approved the plan, which would be a combination of brownfield and greenfield expansion.

"This would be achieved by setting up integrated and grinding units as well as bulk terminals," the company said in a statement.

"The additional capacity will be created across the country. Commercial production from these new capacities is expected to go on stream in a phased manner, by FY25," it added.

With the latest round of expansion, which is distinct from ongoing capacity addition that may conclude by FY23, total capacity would grow to 159.25 MTPA from the current 119.95 MTPA.

UltraTech's planned expansion is likely to cost $76 per tonne of cement, which is significantly lower than the comparable cost of the recent acquisition of Holcim India's cement assets by the Adani Group, analysts said.

Sandberg to quit Facebook owner Meta

REUTERS

Meta Platforms Inc. Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg is leaving the company after 14 years, she said in a Facebook post on Wednesday, sending the social media firm's shares down 4%.

Chief Growth Officer Javier Olivan will replace Ms. Sandberg, said Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg in a separate post. Javier has worked at Meta for more than 14 years and has led teams handling Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and Messenger.

"When I took this job in 2008, I hoped I would be in this role for five years," Ms. Sandberg wrote. "Fourteen years later, it is time for me to write the next chapter of my life."

Ministry said to issue draft to list 25% of BCCL

Move on CIL arm part of restructuring

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The coal ministry has floated a draft cabinet note for seeking inter-ministerial views on the proposal to list 25% shares of Coal India arm BCCL.

As a part of Coal India (CIL) restructuring, the government has decided for an initial listing of 25% shares of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL).

"Draft cabinet note for initial listing of 25% of shares of... BCCL has been approved by the Minister of Coal," a source said, adding that "the draft cabinet note in respect of BCCL has been sent for IMC consultation." A query sent to a Coal Ministry official on the same, remained unanswered till the filing of the story.

CIL had said last month that it was planning to divest 25% stake in its unlisted arm BCCL and would go for the subsequent listing of the subsidiary on stock exchanges after obtaining further clearances.

A meeting of the board of directors to this effect was held on March 10, 2022, Coal India had said in a regulatory filing.

Saudi-led OPEC backs bigger output boost

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
VIENNA

Major oil producers led by Saudi Arabia and Russia on Thursday decided to open taps wider than expected amid soaring prices and hard on the heels of an EU ban on Russian oil imports.

Analysts had expected OPEC+ producers to stick to their policy of modest output increases. However, pressure has been rising for the 23-strong cartel to boost output and seek to stabilise prices, which have surged since Russia invaded Ukraine.

"The meeting highlighted the importance of stable and balanced markets," OPEC said in a statement, adding they will add 6,48,000 barrels per day to the market in July.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18, Voot Select, Vh1, MTV & Jio TV, 6.30 a.m.
Roland Garros 2022: Sony Ten 2, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 2.30 p.m. onwards
England vs New Zealand: 1st Test, day 2, Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 3.30 p.m.
UEFA Nations League: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)

IN BRIEF

Chelsea's Rudiger completes move to Real

MADRID

German international defender Antonio Rudiger has joined Spanish and European champion Real Madrid from Chelsea, the two clubs confirmed on Thursday. The 29-year-old centre-back, who was out of contract at Chelsea, has signed a four-year deal in the Spanish capital, Real announced. AFP

Son gets South Korea's top sporting honour

SEOUL

Son Heung-min was awarded South Korea's highest sporting honour on Thursday after the Tottenham forward became the first Asian player to win the Premier League Golden Boot. The 29-year-old was presented the Cheongnyong Medal by President Yoon Suk-yeol before South Korea's friendly against Brazil at Seoul World Cup Stadium. AFP

Panghal, Thapa in team

Eight-member squad finalised at Patiala NIS trials

CWG BOXING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

World championships medallists Amit Panghal and Shiva Thapa were among the leading boxers who made it to the Indian men's boxing squad on Thursday for this year's Commonwealth Games.

In the selection trials at the NIS Patiala, Panghal, a 2018 Commonwealth Games silver medallist, defeated fellow Services boxer Deepak Kumar 4-1 in the 51kg division final to grab a spot in the quadrennial event to be held in Birmingham from July 28 to August 8.

Five-time Asian championships medallist Shiva Thapa beat arch-rival and World championships bronze medallist and Commonwealth Games silver medallist Manish Kaushik 5-0 to take the 63.5kg slot.

Last edition's bronze medallist Mohammad Hussamuddin recorded a 4-1 win over Asian silver medallist Kavinder Singh Bisht to get picked in the 57kg category.

Dynamic duo: Amit Panghal and Shiva Thapa will boost India's medal hopes at the CWG. • FILE PHOTO: PTI

Sagar shocked Olympian Satish Kumar 5-0 in the semifinals and National champion Narender 5-0 in the final to take the +92kg place.

Rohit Tokas (67kg), Thailand Open gold medallist Sumit Kundu (75kg), Olympian Ashish Kumar (80kg) and Asian champion Sanjeet (92kg) were the other boxers selected.

The team:

Amit Panghal (51kg), Mohammad Hussamuddin (57kg), Shiva Thapa (63.5kg), Rohit Tokas (67kg), Sumit (75kg), Ashish Kumar (80kg), Sanjeet (92kg) and Sagar (+92kg).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Aman's effort trumps Sanjay Ashwin's

C. Sanjay Ashwin's 133 went in vain as BEML RC, led by Aman Raj's unbeaten 110, defeated ADE SC by nine wickets in the KSCA (Group II) second division tournament.

The scores:

BEML Rail Coach 145/9 in 20 overs (Aditya Mani 27) lost to LIC S&RC 148 for no loss in 15 overs (H. Sarvesh Raju 59 n.o., S.H. Swaroop 77 n.o.).

ADE SC 175/3 in 20 overs (C. Sanjay Ashwin 133) lost to BEML RC, Bangalore, 177/1 in 19.3 overs (Aman Raj 110 n.o., M.K. Srinivas 40 n.o.).

BEML(2) SC, Mysore, 149/2 in 20 overs (Vishnu Priyan 60, B. Dheemanth 29, L. Hemanth Kumar 31 n.o.) lost to RBI RC 151/3 in 19.1 overs (Prajwal Pavan 35, M. Suresh 48, M. Utham Aiyappa 33 n.o.).

Bangalore Division SA, SWR, 124/7 in 20 overs (P. Pramodh 34, S. Dhananjaya 3/21) lost to South Railway Institute, Mysore, 125/6 in 17.4 overs (Gowtham Sagar 51, S. Dhananjaya 40 n.o.).

DELL CC 177/4 in 20 overs (Abhijit Mahapatra 68, Girish Kalkere 59 n.o.) lost to Triton SC, Mysore, 180/5 in 19 overs (Yogesh 43, D. Amruth Raj 65).

ITC SC 180/4 in 20 overs (Abheeth Kuthpady 109 n.o., Akshay Bharadwaj 27) bt VISL CC, Bhadravathi, 169/9 in 20 overs (Abu 77, Rohan 27).

BEL SC 144/9 in 20 overs (M. Chitti Babu 32, Mohangouda 25, S. Chethan 3/38) lost to Indiabulls Housing & Finance Ltd 147/3 in 19.1 overs (R. Akshay 85 n.o.).

Friends United outshoots Bangalore Gunners

Friends United FC thrashed Bangalore Gunners 4-0 in the BDFA A-division league championship on Thursday.

The results:

Friends United FC 4 (Lalmuan 3, Jones Muthuraj 50, Don Bosco 62, Pradeep Kumar 64) bt Bangalore Gunners FC 0.

Income Tax FC 1(Akheel Razak 38) drew with RWF FC 1 (M. Regin 1).

Rohit shines with bat and ball

Rohit's all-round performance (84 & 3/24) helped PESCA register a four-wicket win over Young Lions in the Tiger Cup under-16 cricket tournament.

The scores:

Young Lions 177/6 in 30 overs (Rohit 84, Arjun Potti 41, Abhinav Nag 3/33) bt PESCA 164/6 in 30 overs (Raag Punja 33, Arsh Arora 29, Rohit 3/24).

SRCA 146 in 29.1 overs (Ishaan Noel 5/25) lost to Eagles CC 147/7 in 29.3 overs (Dhruv 63).

Six CA (Blue) 139 in 30 overs (Shourya Rai 34, Guru Shreyas 55, Likithan 3/15, Samarth Kulkarni 4/17) bt Social cricketers 128/8 in 30 overs (Vratin 57, Gagandeep 27, A.R. Arjun 3/22).

Just Cricket 162 in 30 overs (Aditya Agarwal 43, Kushal Keshav 44, Tarun Chandrashekar 3/21) bt Max Muller 141/5 in 30 overs (Abhay Surya 34, Nitesh Arya 26, Sean Pratyush 35).

Manish fights back to down Rashein

Qualifier G. Manish came back from a set down to defeat Rashein Samuel 3-6, 6-2, 6-0 and enter the semifinals of the Topspin AITA Pro Circuit tournament on Thursday.

The results (quarterfinals):

Men: Mohit Mayur Jayaprakash bt Arnav Pathange 6-2, 6-2.

Boopathy Sakthivel bt Guhan Rajan 6-2, 6-1.

G. Manish bt Rashein Samuel 3-6, 6-2, 6-0.

Dheeraj Kodancha Srinivasan bt Kumaran Bharath Nishok 5-7, 6-0, 6-4.

Women: Prathiba Prasad Narayan bt Samiksha Dabas 6-2, 6-1.

Anusha Kondaveeti bt Nikitha Tirdala 6-3, 6-1; S. Srinidhi bt Joell Nichole 6-7(7), 6-3, 7-6(3).

Gayatri Rajesh Menon bt Apurva Vemuri 7-6(4), 6-2.

India to host FIM MiniGP world series

Will give a big fillip to two-wheeler racing in the country

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS BUREAU

In a major boost for two-wheeler racing in the country, India has been included in the FIM MiniGP World Series 2022 with a five-round competition under the aegis of the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI).

Ten races

The India series, comprising 10 races, will be held in Bengaluru and Hyderabad, from July. FIM, the World governing body for two-wheeler racing, in conjunction with Dorna Sports, promoters of the FIM MotoGP, launched the MiniGP Series in 2021, as part of the Road To MotoGP programme, aiming to create an equal platform for young riders around the world to begin their motorcycle racing careers.

The series is restricted to riders in the age group of 10-14 years.

The FIM MiniGP World Series India 2022 kicks-off with selection trials in Bengaluru (July 2-3) at Meco Kartopia. The first of the five rounds will also be held at Meco Kartopia (July 23-24) before moving to Hyderabad for the next two rounds and then returning to Bengaluru for the final two rounds. Each round will comprise two races.

The selected riders will compete on equal Ohvale GP-0 160 machinery (Mini bikes) while Pirelli is the official single tyre supplier for all the FIM MiniGP World Series with a standard tyre allocation given per event.

Big step

FMSCI president Akbar Ebrahim said: "We welcome the FIM MiniGP World Series to India. It is a big step forward in our efforts to identify, nurture and promote young talent in our country.

"The series also presents a massive platform for talented youngsters to showcase their skills and pursue their racing dreams."

The calendar: July 2-3: Tryouts and selections, Kartopia circuit, Bengaluru.

July 23-24: Round 1, Meco Kartopia circuit, Bengaluru.

August 20-21: Round 2, Chicane circuit, Hyderabad.

August 27-28: Round 3, Chicane circuit, Hyderabad.

Sept 10-11: Round 4, Meco Kartopia circuit, Bengaluru.

Sept 24-25: Round 5, Meco Kartopia circuit, Bengaluru.

Arjun Waskale and Priyanka book berths for under-20 Worlds

They find form to qualify for event in Colombia in August

JR. FED CUP

SPORTS BUREAU

Madhya Pradesh's Arjun Waskale (men's 1500m) and Uttar Pradesh's Priyanka Sirakwar (women's 100m) struck form at 20th National Federation Cup junior (under-20) athletics championships at Nadiad (Gujarat) on Thursday and qualified for the under-20 Worlds in Colombia in August.

The 18-year-old Priyanka, from Agra, clocked 11.80s in the women's 100m heats to make the cut (qualifying standard 11.90) while Arjun Waskale, 18, broke the men's 1500m meet record even as he qualified for the Worlds.

Priya H. Mohan, last year's under-20 Worlds mixed relay bronze medallist, was the fastest going into the women's 400m final with 53.45s while Rupal, the silver medallist at the National varsities meet in Bhubaneswar in February, was next best (53.91).

The two have already qualified for the under-20 Worlds.

The results (gold medallists only): Men: 1500m: Arjun Waskale (MP) 3:46.31s (MR, OR 3:48.54).

5000m: Gagan Singh (Har) 14:44.92s.

Pole vault: R. Sakthi (TN) 4.60m.

Discus: Shubhkarman Ghotra (Pun) 53.00m.

Women: 1500m: Akansha (Raj) 4:33.99s.

5000m: Drashtiben Chaudhri (Guj) 16:53.33s.

Shot put: Jasmine Kaur (Pun) 13.90m.

Swiatek one step away from a second crown

She takes on Gauff, who is the youngest Grand Slam finalist since Maria Sharapova won Wimbledon in 2004

FRENCH OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Iga Swiatek booked her place in a second final at Roland-Garros on Thursday as the World No. 1 outclassed Russian Daria Kasatkina to extend her unbeaten streak to 34 matches.

The 2020 champion cruised to a dominant 6-2, 6-1 semifinal victory after just 64 minutes on Court Philippe Chatrier.

"I'm so grateful. It's easier to play matches with this kind of support," Swiatek said in her on-court interview. "It's surprising this week how much they're supporting me.

"I try to treat every match in the same way because when I think about how it's the biggest match of the season so far, it stresses me out."

It will be the 21-year-old's second Grand Slam final, as she looks to win a sixth consecutive WTA title.

The Polish star has stormed up the rankings this season, moving from World No. 7 to the summit during her remarkable run.

Swiatek hammered 22 winners past her opponent and she has still lost only one set in the tournament, against Chinese teenager Zheng Qinwen in the fourth round.

Kasatkina won her first clash with Swiatek on the Eastbourne grass last year, but has lost all four of their meetings in 2022 in straight sets, without winning more than five games in a match.

Coco Gauff will take on Swiatek after the teenager eased into her maiden Grand Slam final with a straight-sets victory over Martina Trevisan.

The 18-year-old American claimed a 6-3, 6-1 win in a nervous match which saw both players featuring in a major semifinal for the first time.

On Wednesday, Casper Ruud became the first Norwegian man to reach a Grand Slam semifinal when he defeated Danish teenager Holger Rune in four sets.

World No. 8 Ruud triumphed 6-1, 4-6, 7-6(2), 6-3 and will meet 2014 US Open champion Marin Cilic for a place in Sunday's final.

Rohan Bopanna and his Dutch partner Matwe Middelkoop saved two match points but their dream run ended with a semifinal defeat at the hands of Marcelo Arevalo and Jean-Julien Rojer.

The 16th seeds Bopanna and Middelkoop, who have played some exhilarating tennis throughout, lost 6-4, 3-6, 6-7(8) to the 12th-seeded pair in the men's doubles match that lasted two hours and seven minutes.

Force to reckon with: Swiatek, who hammered 22 winners past Kasatkina, has lost only one set in the tournament. •REUTERS

Day in numbers

3 Gauff, 18, is the third youngest women's singles Grand Slam finalist this century, only older than Sharapova (17, Wimbledon 2004) and Clijsters (18, French Open 2001)

6 Swiatek is the first player to reach six finals on the WTA Tour in the first six months of the year since Serena in 2013 (seven)

15 Swiatek's 15th consecutive win on clay, the best run for a women's singles player since Serena won 20 from Rome 2015 to French Open 2016

40 Swiatek has won 40 of the 46 sets she has played at Roland-Garros, starting from the 2019 edition

FRIDAY'S PICKS

Men's semifinals

3-Zverev vs. 5-Nadal
8-Ruud vs. 20-Cilic

THE RESULTS

Women: Semifinals: 1-Swiatek (Pol) bt 20-Kasatkina 6-2, 6-1; 18-Gauff (USA) bt Trevisan (Ita) 6-3, 6-1.
Men's doubles: Semifinals: 12-Jean-Julien (Ned) & Arevalo-Gonzalez (ESA) bt 16-Bopanna (Ind) & Middelkoop (Ned) 4-6, 6-3, 7-6[10-8].
Wednesday's result: Men: Quarterfinals: 8-Ruud (Nor) bt Rune (Den) 6-1, 4-6, 7-6(2), 6-3.

Shibahara and Koolhof win mixed title

Insta success: Koolhof said he and Shibahara agreed to play together after he had reached out to her on Instagram. •AP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Ena Shibahara and Wesley Koolhof won the French Open mixed doubles title on Thursday after only meeting for the first time on the eve of Roland-Garros thanks to a social media message.

The second-seeded pair defeated unseeded Ulrikke Eikeri of Norway and Belgium's Joran Vliegen 7-6(5), 6-2 on the back of 26 winners for their first Grand Slam trophy.

Koolhof revealed that he and Shibahara only agreed to play together after he had reached out to her on Instagram.

"Took her a while to respond back!" said the Dutch player.

"But she said yes and she was looking forward to playing. So we actually never met before, I just saw her a few times playing at the Slams and the Masters, so I knew what kind of game she had and thought it would suit me very well.

"So that's why I asked her and very happy she said yes. So, yeah, and this is the crazy result in the end."

Kiwis hit back after Potts-Anderson show

The visitors reduce England to 116 for seven after getting bundled out for 132

NZ IN ENGLAND

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

England debutant Matthew Potts and recalled great James Anderson took four wickets each as New Zealand was bowled out for 132 on the opening day of the first Test at Lord's on Thursday.

Potts finished with impressive figures of four for 13 in 9.2 overs and Anderson ended with four for 66 in 16 overs.

After being reduced to 45 for seven at one stage, New Zealand's revival came through all-rounder Colin de Grandhomme who made an unbeaten 42 off 50 balls.

In reply, England was cruising at 92 for two at one stage before losing wickets in a heap to the Kiwi pace quartet of Southee, Boult, de Grandhomme and Kyle Jamieson. The hosts finished day one at 116 for seven.

Tribute to Warne

Play was briefly paused after the 23rd over as the players lined up on the outfield and the fans stood for a minute's applause in honour of Shane Warne, who wore the No. 23 shirt. The Australian legend passed away in March at the age of 52.

Striking again: Potts, who made an impressive debut, castles Blundell. •GETTY IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

New Zealand — 1st innings: Tom Latham c Bairstow b Anderson 1, Will Young c Bairstow b Anderson 1, Kane Williamson c Foakes b Potts 2, Devon Conway c Bairstow b Broad 3, Daryl Mitchell b Potts 13, Tom Blundell b Potts 14, Colin de Grandhomme (not out) 42, Kyle Jamieson c Potts b Anderson 6, Tim Southee c Potts b Anderson 26, Ajaz Patel lbw b Potts 7, Trent Boult c Pope b Stokes 14; Extras (lb-3): 3; Total (in 40 overs): 132.

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-2, 3-7, 4-12, 5-27, 6-36, 7-45, 8-86, 9-102.

England bowling: Anderson 16-6-66-4, Broad 13-0-45-1, Potts 9.2-4-13-4, Stokes 1.4-0-5-1.

England — 1st innings: Alex Lees lbw b Southee 25, Zak Crawley c Blundell b Jamieson 43, Ollie Pope c Mitchell b Jamieson 7, Joe Root c Southee b de Grandhomme 11, Jonny Bairstow b Boult 1, Ben Stokes c Blundell b Southee 1, Ben Foakes (batting) 6, Matthew Potts c Mitchell b Boult 0, Stuart Broad (batting) 4; Extras (b-10, lb-7, nb-1): 18; Total (for seven wkts. in 36 overs): 116.

Fall of wickets: 1-59, 2-75, 3-92, 4-96, 5-98, 6-100, 7-100.

New Zealand bowling: Southee 11-3-40-2, Boult 10-4-15-2, de Grandhomme 8-2-24-1, Jamieson 7-3-20-2.

It's Celtics' defence vs Warriors' offence

The Boston team has the best road record; hosts yet to lose at home this season

NBA FINALS

REUTERS
SAN FRANCISCO

An intriguing NBA Finals matchup that features a legendary history, a controversial present and even a touch of ownership rivalry tips off when the Boston Celtics and Golden State Warriors contest Game 1 in San Francisco.

The Jayson Tatum-led Celtics own the best road record in this year's postseason (7-2) while the Stephen Curry-led Warriors are the only team yet to lose at home (9-0).

The franchises have met four times in the playoffs, the first three occurring in the Eastern Conference finals before the Warriors moved west from Philadelphia. The Celtics won all four matchups, including in 1960 and 1962 in the second and fourth seasons of their eight straight championships.

Boston also beat the Warriors in the 1964 NBA Finals.

The Celtics have added six titles in the post-Bill Russell era, including one in 2008 over the Los Angeles Lakers with Joe Lacob as one of their part-owners. The Massachusetts native became owner of the Warriors two years later and has since added three to his championship-ring collection, with Golden State clinching crowns in 2015, 2017 and 2018.

The next NBA champion could be determined by shooting percentages, as the best-of-seven series pits the long-range marksmanship of Warriors' Curry and Klay Thompson against Boston's suffocating perimeter defence featuring Marcu Smart and Jaylen Brown.

Curry. •AP

Plucky Poland rallies to get past Wales

Equaliser: Poland players celebrate Jakub Kaminski's strike. •REUTERS

NATIONS LEAGUE

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WROCLAW

Poland came from behind to beat an understrength Wales side 2-1 in the opening game of the Nations League.

Wales coach Robert Page rested most of his starters ahead of Sunday's World Cup playoff but Jonny Williams still put the visitor ahead in the 52nd minute with a low shot past goalkeeper Kamil Grabara.

But Poland substitutes Jakub Kaminski and Karol Swiderski scored in the final 18 minutes to turn the game around and hand Wales its first defeat since losing to Denmark in the quarterfinals of the European Championship last year.

The League A group also includes Belgium and the Netherlands, who face each other on Friday.

The result:

League A, Group 4:

Poland 2 (Kaminski 72, Swiderski 85) bt Wales 1 (Jonny Williams 52).

CRICKET

Shakib back at the helm for Bangladesh

DHAKA

Bangladesh appointed all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan as the Test captain for the third time on Thursday after Mominul Haque quit following a poor run of form. Liton Das was named vice-captain.

Malinga named Lanka's bowling strategy coach

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka named fast-bowling legend Lasith Malinga its bowling strategy coach on Thursday for the series against Australia starting next week. The visitors will play three T20Is, five ODIs and two Tests. AFP

Swapnil wins silver in 50-metre rifle 3-position

Loses to Kulish in gold medal contest

SHOOTING

SPORTS BUREAU

Swapnil Kusale was beaten 10-16 to the gold by the 2016 Rio Olympics silver medallist Serhiy Kulish of Ukraine in the 50-metre rifle 3-position event at the shooting World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Thursday.

Swapnil shot 591 in qualification and was marginally behind in the second stage while making the cut for the gold match. It was the first significant individual milestone for the 26-year-old Swapnil, who has been part of the gold medal-winning Indian team in the World Cup.

With a gold and a silver, India was joint seventh in the table with France, Kuwait and US. Korea led with three gold and a bronze. Serbia was second with two gold, a silver and a bronze.

In the women's 50-metre rifle 3-position event, Olympian Anjum Moudgil shot remarkably well to score the third-best score of 587 in qualifying stage for the top-eight. She had shot 587 earlier in the day in the elimination round too.

Swapnil, Kulish and Leppa... the podium finishers. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ayushi finishes 16th

Ayushi Podder (585) finished 16th, shooting two points less than Anjum in the prone round, while Ashi Chouksey (584) was 20th. Both improved on their elimination score of 581 and 578.

The results: 50m rifle 3-position: Men: 1. Serhiy Kulish (Ukr) 16 (411.0) 594; 2. Swapnil Kusale 10 (409.1) 591; 3. Aleksi Leppa (Fin) 407.8 (589); 14. Goldi Gurjar 586; 23. Deepak Kumar 583.

Ukraine gets a boost

Beats Scotland in pulsating WC qualifying semifinal playoff

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GLASGOW

Ukraine's emotion-filled quest to qualify for the World Cup amid an ongoing war moved past the first hurdle with a 3-1 win over Scotland in a pulsating playoff semifinal.

Veteran captain Andriy Yarmolenko lifted his nation by scoring a deft lobbed goal in the 33rd minute and then helped set up Roman Yaremchuk's header in the 49th to make it 2-0.

Ukraine dominated for much of a deserved win but had to resist a Scotland revival as risk-filled attacks brought a goal in the 79th by Callum McGregor, before Ukraine substitute Artem Dovbyk broke clear to score with the last kick of the game.

Ukraine coach Oleksandr Petrakov said the win was for "the armed forces in the trenches and in the hospitals, who give their last drop of blood, those in Ukraine who suffer every day."

Now Ukraine moves on to face Wales on Sunday with a place at the World Cup at stake.

The winner in Cardiff will go to Qatar in November to play in a group against England, the United States and Iran.

The result (semifinal): Scotland 1 (McGregor 79) lost to Ukraine 3 (Yarmolenko 33, Yaremchuk 49, Dovbyk 90+5).

Sea of yellow and blue: Yaremchuk, centre, and teammates celebrate with their supporters after Ukraine's second goal. •AP

Magical Messi steals the show

Inspires Argentina to a 3-0 win over Italy at Wembley

FINALISSIMA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Lionel Messi stole the show as Copa America holder Argentina powered to a 3-0 win against European champion Italy in the Finalissima at Wembley on Wednesday.

Inspired by the peerless Messi, Argentina raced into a two-goal lead in the first half of the prestigious friendly thanks to strikes from Lautaro Martinez and Angel Di Maria.

'A beautiful final'

Paulo Dybala capped Argentina's rout, but after a disappointing season with Paris Saint-Germain by his sky-high standards, it was the sight of Messi back to his imperious best that took the spotlight.

The 34-year-old's eye-catching display featured two assists and was worthy of his rare appearance at one of football's great cathedrals.

Thrown into the air by his jubilant teammates after the final whistle, Messi said: "Today was a nice test because Italy are a great team... It was a beautiful final, full of Argentines..."

It was another memorable moment for Argentina, which has qualified for this year's World Cup as it extended the golden afterglow from the victory over Brazil that ended a 28-year wait to win the Copa America in 2021.

For Italy, it was a disappointing return to Wembley 11 months after it beat England on penalties in the Euro 2020 final.

Roberto Mancini's team has gone into a steep decline since that triumph. The Italians failed to qualify for the World Cup after a humiliating loss to North Macedonia. After the World Cup failure, Mancini is transitioning to a younger generation, with Nations League matches against Germany, England and Hungary his real focus.

This was only the third Finalissima contest between the respective champions of Europe and South America and the first since Diego Maradona's Argentina beat Denmark in 1993.

Fittingly, Messi – the heir to the legendary Maradona – used the occasion to remind the world of his astonishing talents.

Messi's name echoed around the stands as Argentina's fans paid tribute to their idol's latest masterpiece.

Setting the ball rolling: All Martinez has to do is apply the finishing touch to a Messi assist. •AFP

As Corner House turns 40, its founder Narayan Rao talks about how he built Bengaluru's beloved icecream brand

The icecream man

:: PRAVEEN SUDEVAN

During my conversation with Narayan Rao, the founder of Bengaluru's popular icecream brand Corner House, I tell him, rather unwittingly, "Corner House is a legacy brand"

"You are saying this, not me!" he interjects, with the smile of a chess player who has snared his opponent.

It is, however, not preposterous to assume that Corner House is, indeed, a legacy brand in Bengaluru. It has, after all, 19 parlours across the city and two more in Mysuru. It has been around for 40 years, withstanding competition from other international icecream brands. It sells, on average, 1.5 lakh litres of ice cream every month.

More than these numbers, though, it is the familiarity the people of the city – at least those who can afford ice creams – have with Corner House that begot my assumption of it being a legacy brand. Three people I know shared their unsolicited comments when I told them I am going to write about Corner House.

"Don't you dare leave out Death By Chocolate (one of the most-sold Corner House flavours) in your article," threatened a former colleague.

A lawyer texted: "We used to go there for everything. Good day? Corner House. Bad day? Corner House. Exam started? Corner House. Exam over? Corner House. Saturday afternoon? Corner House."

"Corner House is perhaps the only thing in Bangalore that has either stayed the same or got better," said a journalist.

For people like them, who grew up in Bengaluru in the 1990s and early 2000s, Corner House evokes childhood or adolescent nostalgia. The black-and-white photos at its parlours, displaying frozen moments from Bangalore (not Bengaluru) of yore, going back as far as the late 1800s, make it seem like the brand is much older than it actually is. Rao plays down suggestions of a meticulously built brand. "Except once, I have never given advertisements," he claims. The Corner House story, according to him, is about happiness and happenstances (the hot chocolate sauce, he perhaps felt, was needless to mention).

> **You try to keep the customer as happy as possible. We want to touch people's lives in small ways. We want to be Bengaluru's darling brand**
>
> NARAYAN RAO

The best thing about being in the ice cream business, Rao says, is that you get to sell a happy product. "You try to keep the customer as happy as possible."

Two years ago, a customer asked the Corner House staff if he could take a bowl of Rum-and-Raisins icecream for his 95-year-old father in Kadapa, which is a six-hour drive away from Bengaluru. Rao had arranged for a thermocol box and dry ice to make sure it lasted the journey.

"We want to touch people's lives in small ways we can; we want to be Bengaluru's darling brand."

There are two moments Rao recalls that were monumental in the making of Corner House.

The first was on a hot June afternoon in Delhi in 1980. Rao had just returned from Canada after studying Hotel Management. He was waiting outside the office of the general manager of a five-star hotel for his interview when he met his schoolmate, who was the personal secretary to the manager. She had a hunch that he would not like working there.

"She said, 'If you ask me, you should just turn around and walk out of here.' I did just that." If he had not bumped into her, he might not have come to Bengaluru and started Corner House. "Forty years later, I called and thanked her."

The second moment of serendipity came a few years after he started Corner House, which was then a fast-food joint. Business was stuttering. He ran out of the money he borrowed from his father. Banks, then, were not liberal with loans as they are now. He had no collateral, either. He was at a restaurant, contemplating the future of his fledgling food business over a coffee, when a fellow diner joined him. They exchanged pleasantries. It turned out that the guy sitting across the table was a bank manager whose brother was Rao's classmate. Seven days later, Rao got the money he needed to keep his business afloat.

"Bangalore has always been good to me," he says. It is where he met the love of his life, whom he is married to for 41 years. It is where he established his livelihood. For someone born and raised in Delhi, it is now his home.

I ask him what the city means to him. After a pregnant pause, he replies, "You know the *sampige* flowers? You can find it lining many streets of the city. It produces a sweet, fruity smell. That's what Bangalore is to me."

Scoops of happiness Death By Chocolate is one of the most sold flavours, (below) Rao with his team at Corner House • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Avril and her almirah

Almirah, a showcase of artist Avril Stormy Unger's performance work, will be staged on June 5

:: RUTH DHANARAJ

"During the pandemic, a lot of people were grappling with their sexuality and many came out during that time. This is something that happened with me too, which is why I titled the event 'Almirah'. It's my coming-out-of-the-almirah show," laughs Avril Stormy Unger.

The multi-disciplinary artist who shuttles between Bengaluru and Goa, adds that all the work she created during the pandemic not only features household items, but also private gestures such as humming, sewing, ironing, hammering nails and collecting water.

"The pandemic years, finding myself and my identity in isolation, enclosed within my kitchen and with other household items – these were significant parts of making these works and through the process of creating them I came to realise my sexuality, so it's all interconnected," she says.

"Another reason I named the work 'Almirah,' also a household item, is for its nostalgic value; people just don't use that word anymore."

'Almirah' is a four-part series comprising two videos and two performances. "'Mirage' and 'Untangle' are video works which were commissioned to me by Oyoun, an organisation in Berlin, for the Embodied Arts Festival. Though these videos first came out in April 2021, they have not been shown in India till date."

"In June 2020, I was commissioned to do a longer performance piece for Abr, an online platform for performances and digital works, on intimate partner violence. I've recorded one small part of it and that is called 'Don't Explain'," Avril says, adding that while it was performed online and live at the India Art Fair in Delhi, she would be performing it for the first time in Bengaluru, over the weekend.

She says 'I Do, Do I?' is a whole new piece she has been meaning to perform for a very long time and it will premiere at 'Almirah' for the first time ever.

The music for 'Untangle' is by Bengaluru-based artiste Paro. "I absolutely love her music and wanted her to make the music for this piece. Paro is a singer and uses her voice in different ways to layer sound. 'Untangle' is a 31-minute film and the entire soundtrack is her voice."

While Avril sings for 'Don't Explain,' she is collaborating with Sultana Zana, an artist who shuttles between Delhi, Goa and Bengaluru, for 'I Do, Do I?'. "Sultana will be live recording sounds and manipulating them as the performance unfolds," says Avril.

The entire crew involved in the production of 'Untangle' and 'Mirage' are members of the queer community, she adds.

'Almirah' will feature the video works and performance art of Avril Stormy Unger at I ShantiRoad, Bengaluru on June 5 from 6 pm. Entry free.

Manipulating sound Avril Unger (above) A still from her performance • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

B Praak in Bengaluru

Pratik Bachan, best known by his stage name B Praak, will soon embark on a 10-city tour. Called, 'Supermoon ft. B-Praak King of Heart Tour', it embodies romance, heartbreak and medleys in a set format. Son of Punjabi composer Varinder Bachan, B Praak started his career in music direction before debuting as a singer with the song 'Mann Bharrya'.

Speaking over phone from Mumbai, Praak said he was excited to go on the live symphony tour. "I'm doing this for the first time, and I'm looking forward to experiencing it. The audience will see me perform all my songs, including some 90s Bollywood hits."

Drawing his inspiration from AR Rahman and Jazzy B, Praak has the songs 'Do you know,' 'Horn Blow', 'Backbone, Baarish Ki Jaaye', 'Teri Mitti', and 'Filhall' to his credit.

Having started his tour from Mumbai on May 28, he will perform in Pune on June 3, in Bengaluru on June 5 and in Ahmedabad on June 10.

'Both are powerful roles'

While Lakshmi Gopalaswamy plays an older woman wooed by a younger man in *Anantham*, in *Namoorina Rasika*, she plays a woman opposing outdated rituals

In play Lakshmi Gopalaswamy: 'Roles are written for women my age today' • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

:: SHILPA ANANDRAJ

Lakshmi Gopalaswamy. The name brings to mind a conventional beauty with large, dancing eyes, a classical dancer of repute and an actor, who can carry off any role on screen with elan. Born and brought up in Karnataka, the dancing sensation carved a niche for herself on screen in the Malayalam film industry with *Arayannangalude Veedu* with Mamooty. "I played a wife and mother of two," Lakshmi says. "At that time, it felt like a safe option as cinema was an unknown field."

Lakshmi, has won hearts with her role in the Tamil web-series *Anantham*, directed by V Priya.

She is also working on the Kannada web-series *Namoorina Rasika*, for the platform, Katte, founded by the Jugari brothers (SD Aravinda and Avinash).

While in *Anantham*, she plays the role of an older woman who is wooed by a younger man, in *Namoorina...* she plays a woman, who opposes outdated rituals such as tonsuring the head of child widows. "Both roles are powerful. *Anantham*, shows that there are roles for women of a certain age. I am honoured to be part of *Namoorina...* as it is based on the works of the legendary writer Guru Ramaswamy Iyengar."

FRIDAYREVIEW

On why we see so little of her in in Kannada films, Lakshmi says, "I was offered roles. Being a classical dancer and having had the aesthetics of movement ingrained in me since a young age, I could not visualise myself doing the dance numbers that were created for films then. In Malayalam films I was offered roles of a mother or wife, which was bereft of such demands from me as an actor."

Lakshmi says she has slowed down her pace since the pandemic and the lockdown. "Having lived with a packed schedule for years, the lockdown put me into an introspective mode. It was time to rethink and re-pattern my life choices. Seeing the drastic effect of the virus, taught me to be grateful and value what I have. "

The isolation gave her the space to heal, Lakshmi says. "When you become a public figure and an influencer, it makes demands on your time and energy. You end up being fragmented in every aspect. You do not have the bandwidth to take on your creative pursuits and are driven by deadlines. You find yourself on the treadmill."

Not having a fixed salary, prompts actors to take on whatever works comes by, Lakshmi comments.

"The stress of having to take on every kind of work, eased in the past two years. Life took on a slower pace and taught me to just 'be' in the present and not worry about lost opportunities. The pandemic taught me to live an organic life."

Lakshmi won critical acclaim for her role in the Kannada film *Vidaaya* where she plays the wife of a paraplegic man who supports his fight for euthanasia.

A look into Bengaluru's future

Statistics show that Bengaluru has 9.4 million vehicles in an area of just around 820 square kilometers, making it the third worst air polluted city in India. There are many other challenges concerning mobility in the city, such as lack of sufficient cycling lanes and green spaces, outdated and polluting buses and more. To bridge the gap between green ideas and stakeholders who can implement and benefit from them, Jhatkaa.org is organising a three-day festival with Bangalore Creative Circus. Called the Future City Bengaluru, the event begins on June 3 and will be held at Bangalore Creative Circus, Yeshwantpur Industrial Suburb and will feature stalls, performances, competitions and live art.
The event will be on from 12 noon to 8 pm on all days. Log on to Jhatkaa.org for details.

World Jazz Festival comes to Bengaluru this weekend

For their second edition, the World Jazz Festival in collaboration with Banyan Tree and the Amersfoort Festival of Netherlands comes to Bengaluru on June 3. Artists from the Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, America and India, will participate in the event.
Talking about the artistes who will be performing for this edition, Nandini Mahesh, one of the directors of Banyan Tree says, "Each one is a master of their chosen art."
The Alexander Beets Quintet featuring Paul van Kessel and Nathalie Schaap, the Saskia Laroo Band and Prasanna will be performing in Bengaluru on June 3, for the World Jazz Festival at the MLR Convention Centre, JP Nagar from 7.30 pm.
Tickets are available on www.bookmyshow.com

Musical jams and more

Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar will come alive with a series of events, which will be in till June 5. The events scheduled for the week include 'Coffee, Coach and Comedy'(a life coach, a happiness coach and a comedian combine force to talk about the benefits of what they have to offer on June 4 at 11 am. There will be a Hindustani poetry session at 3.30 pm called Kavita Junction #13.
This will be followed by the screening of the film *The Last Word*, followed by a discussion on the subject led by a psychologist/ developmental therapist.
June 5 will feature a discussion on Harry Potter, which will be based on the books, Bhangra with Charan, Salsa and bachata with the Motley Dance Company.
For details dial 9886294444.

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"It is my conviction to bring North-East at par with the other developed regions of the country"

Narendra Modi

2014-2022: Glorious Years of
Transformative Changes

1 TOWARDS PEACE & PROGRESS

- Lasting peace ensured in Karbi Anglong and Bodoland Territorial Region with the historic signing of Karbi Peace Agreement and Bodo Peace Accord respectively
- With marked improvement in law & order, AFSPA withdrawn from 23 districts, i.e. 66% of Assam's geography

2 TRANSFORMING SURFACE TRANSPORT

- Massive transformation in surface transport with construction of 4-lane road/ East-West Corridor involving a total length of 383 km of NH
- Major bridges: India's longest Dhola-Sadiya bridge (9.5-km) & second Saraighat bridge
- Under construction: 8.4-km 6-lane Guwahati-North Guwahati bridge & 8.25-km Majuli-Jorhat bridge
- Work started on Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge (19-km) over Brahmaputra, which will connect Dhubri (Assam) with Phulbari (Meghalaya) linking NH 127-B

3 PROGRESS ON RAILS

- Commissioned Bogibeel bridge, the longest rail-cum-road bridge in Asia
- Converted 894 km from meter gauge to broad gauge, added 387 km new lines, 356 km double lines
- 434 km of electrification of railway lines completed

8 Years
Seva, Sushasan Garib Kalyan

4 BOOST TO AIR & WATER CONNECTIVITY

- Assam can now boast of 7 functional airports – Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Lakhimpur, Silchar, Rupsi & Tezpur with 10% increase in flights in Guwahati this year itself
- Upcoming New Integrated Terminal Building at LGBI Airport, Borjhar will be five times bigger than the existing one
- Major boost to Cargo transportation via Waterways and rejuvenation of historical trade routes via Bangladesh linking NW1 & NW2

5 FIRST AIIMS IN NE

- 750-bed AIIMS-Guwahati, being built under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY), likely to be completed this year
- It will boost medical infrastructure and research activities

6 FILLIP TO HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE

- GoI-supported 2 medical colleges have been constructed and made functional – Diphu (2020) and Lakhimpur (2021)
- GoI-supported medical colleges coming up at Dhubri, Kokrajhar, Nagaon & Nalbari
- These will take the total number of medical colleges in the State to 24 in 3/4 years time
- 4.6 cr Covid vaccine doses administered till 30th May 2022

7 AUGMENTING POWER SECTOR

- State Power distribution network is being revamped with support of ₹8,727 cr from GoI under RDSS Scheme
- 26 lakh BPL households electrified under Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana and Saubhagya with support of ₹7,200 cr from GoI
- Distribution and transmission loss reduction scheme is underway with support of ₹6,800 cr from GoI under EAP
- 2.5 lakh smart meters installed under UDAY and 7.6 lakh smart meter installation is underway

8 NEW LEAF TO INDUSTRIES

- NRL Expansion Project to increase refining capacity from 3 MMTPA to 9 MMTPA; first Bamboo to Ethanol Plant (2G) being executed
- India's 1st Multi Modal Logistic Park being constructed at Jogighopa, Bongaigaon under Bharatmala Project
- 1656 Km NE Gas Grid to connect NE India with National Gas Grid (Barauni – Guwahati pipeline)
- BRPL's refining capacity augmented from 2.35 MMTPA to 2.7 MMTPA; Mounded Bullet Project implemented to store LPG
- BCPL commissioned and presently operating at full capacity, producing 2.8 lakh tonne of polymers annually

"My heartfelt gratitude to the Government of India on behalf of the people of Assam"

Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma
Chief Minister, Assam

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